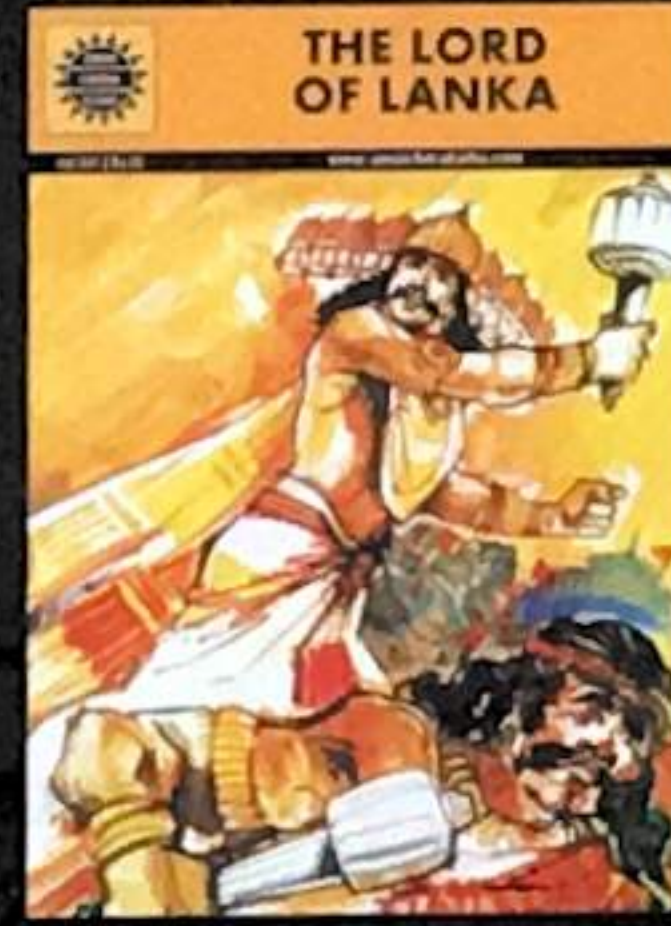
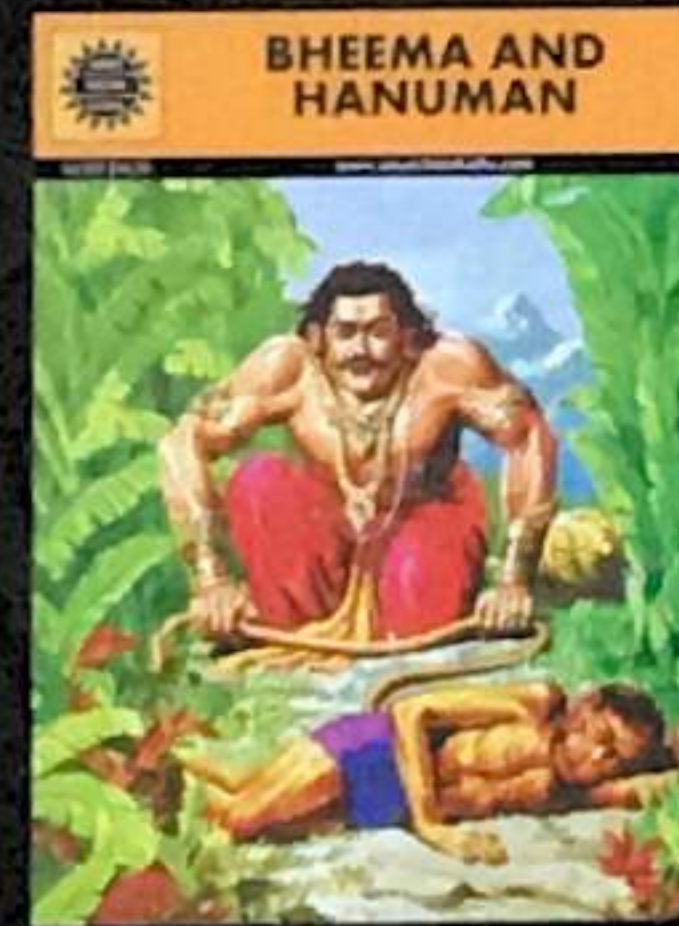
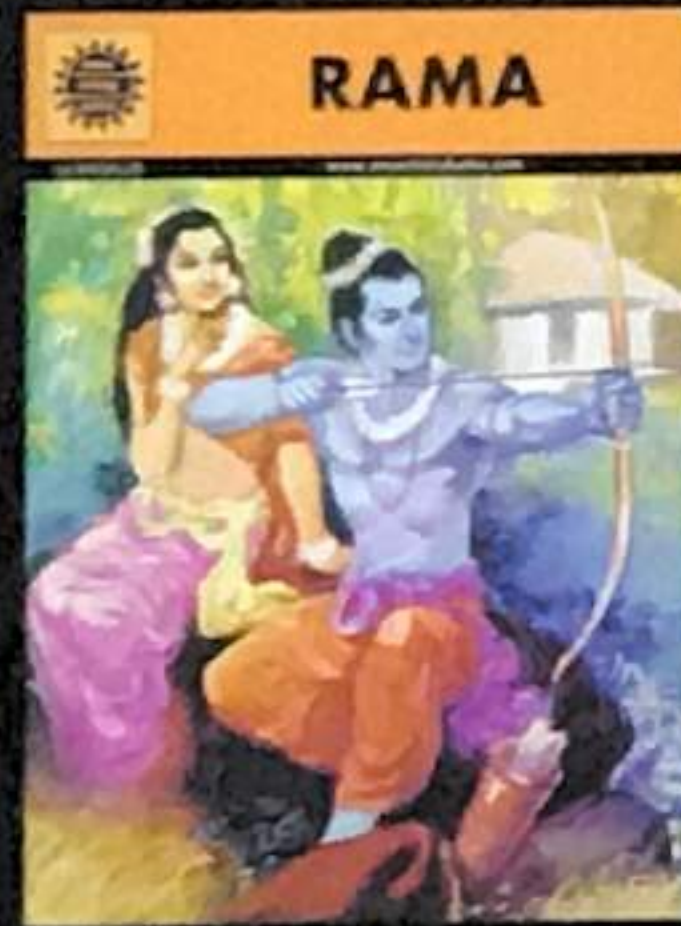


KUBERA

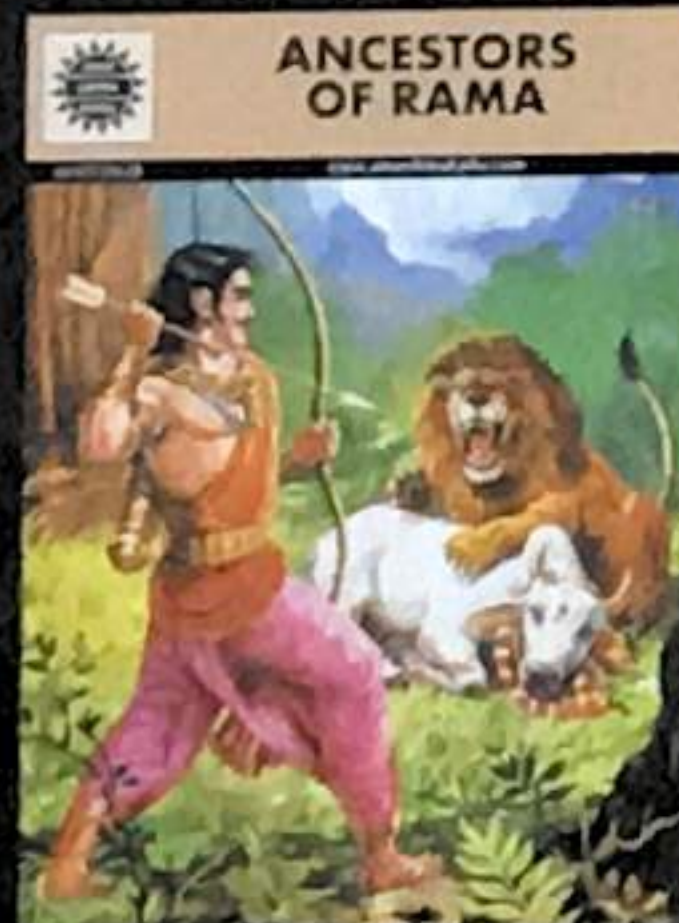
Kubera, the wise and benevolent king of the yakshas, once ruled over the city of Lanka. He would travel the world in his magnificent flying chariot, the Pushpaka Vimana, which had been gifted to him by his great-grandfather, Brahma. Lanka enjoyed an age of peace and prosperity under Kubera's reign. But all that changed when his fearsome half-brother Dasagriva, the leader of the rakshasas, decided to claim the city as his own.

Amar Chitra Katha pieces together from various sources in Indian mythology, the story of the Lord of Wealth.

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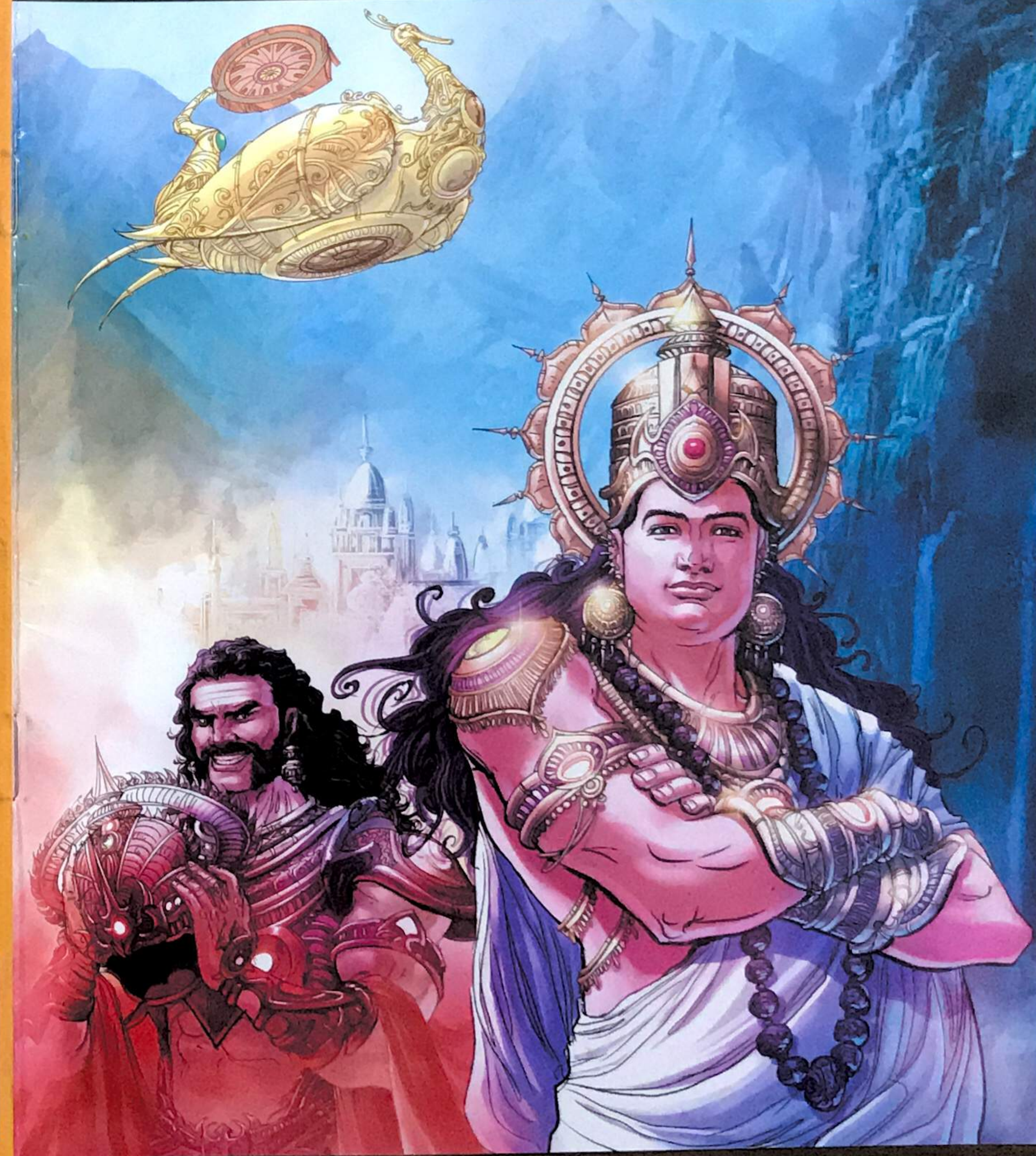
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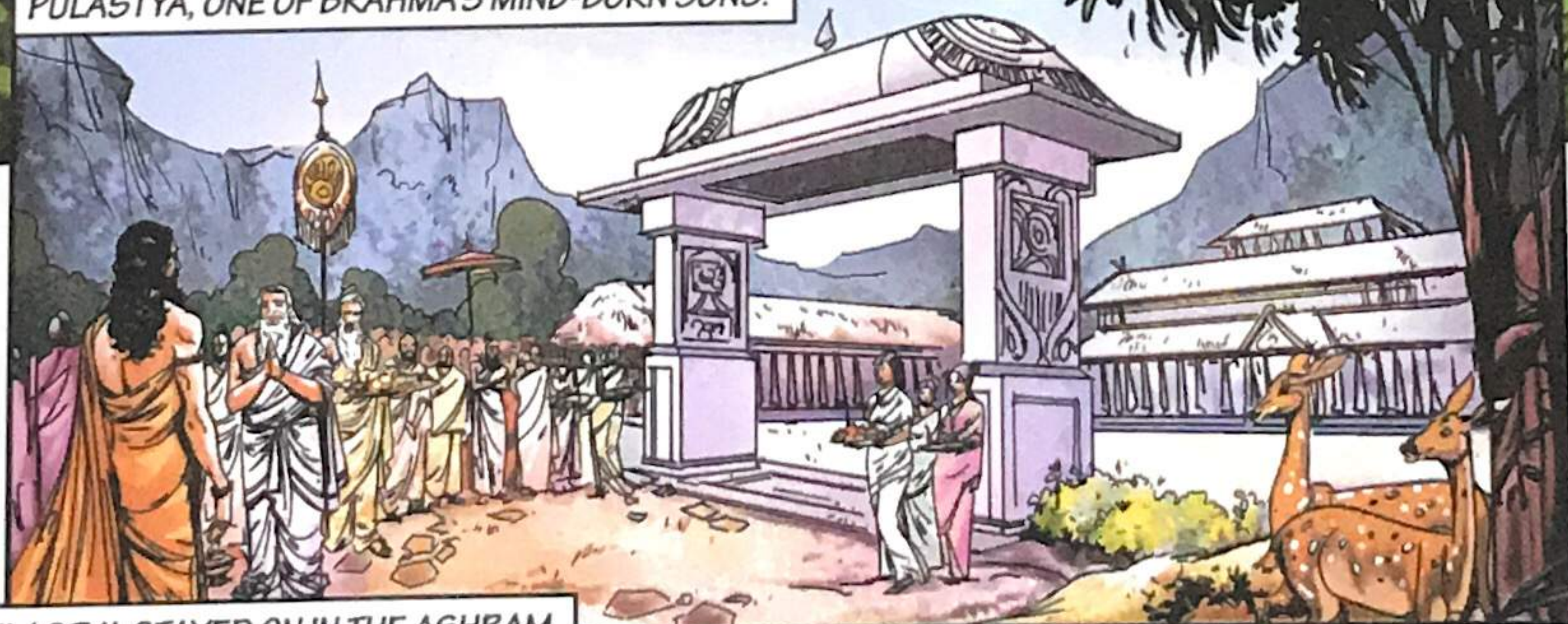
KUBERA

SAGE TRINABINDU'S ASHRAM WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. IT HAD ENCHANTED TREES AND SPARKLING POOLS, WHERE APSARAS AND GANDHARVA* WOMEN DANCED AND SANG.

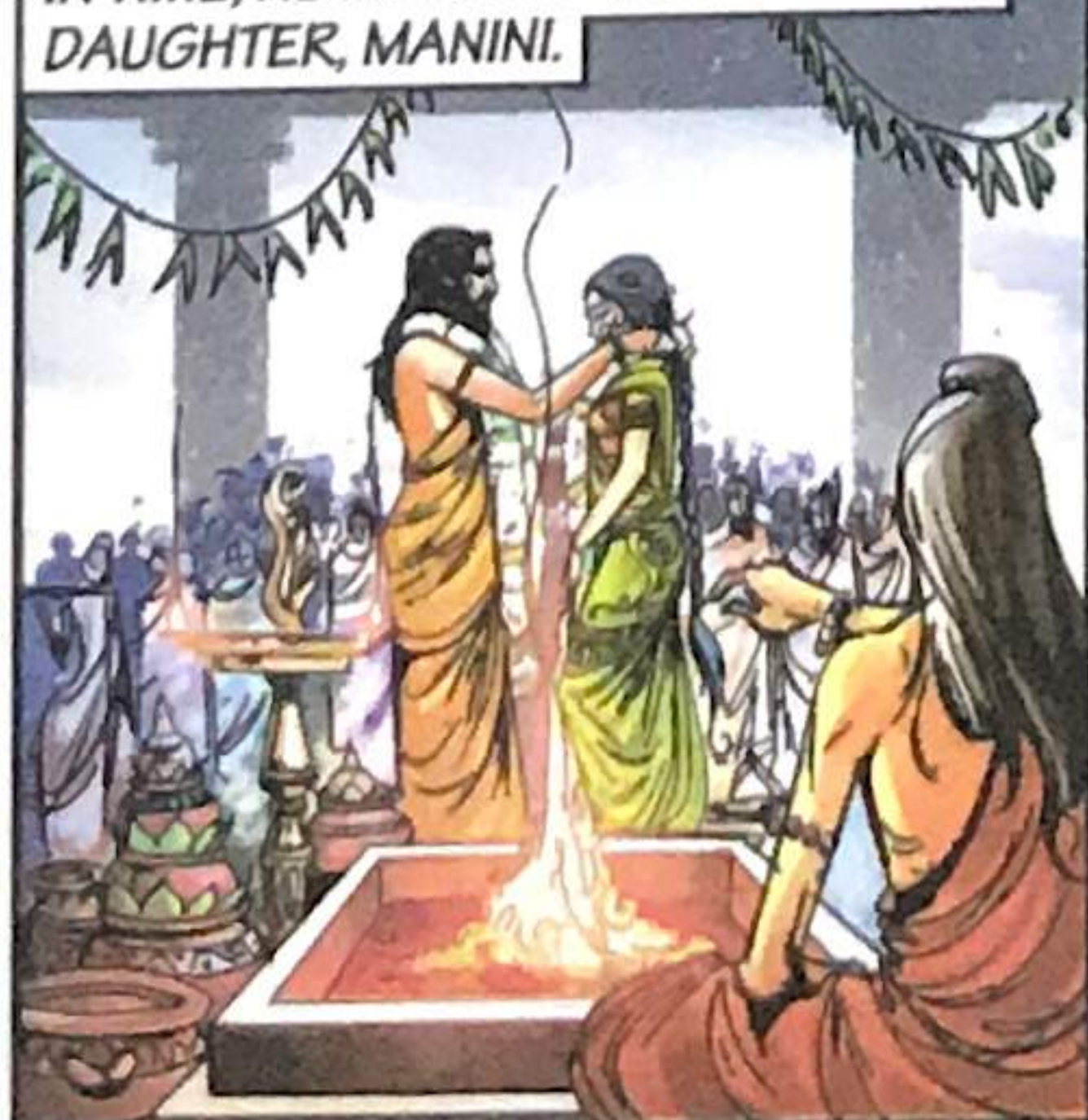


IT WAS THE KRITA YUGA^.

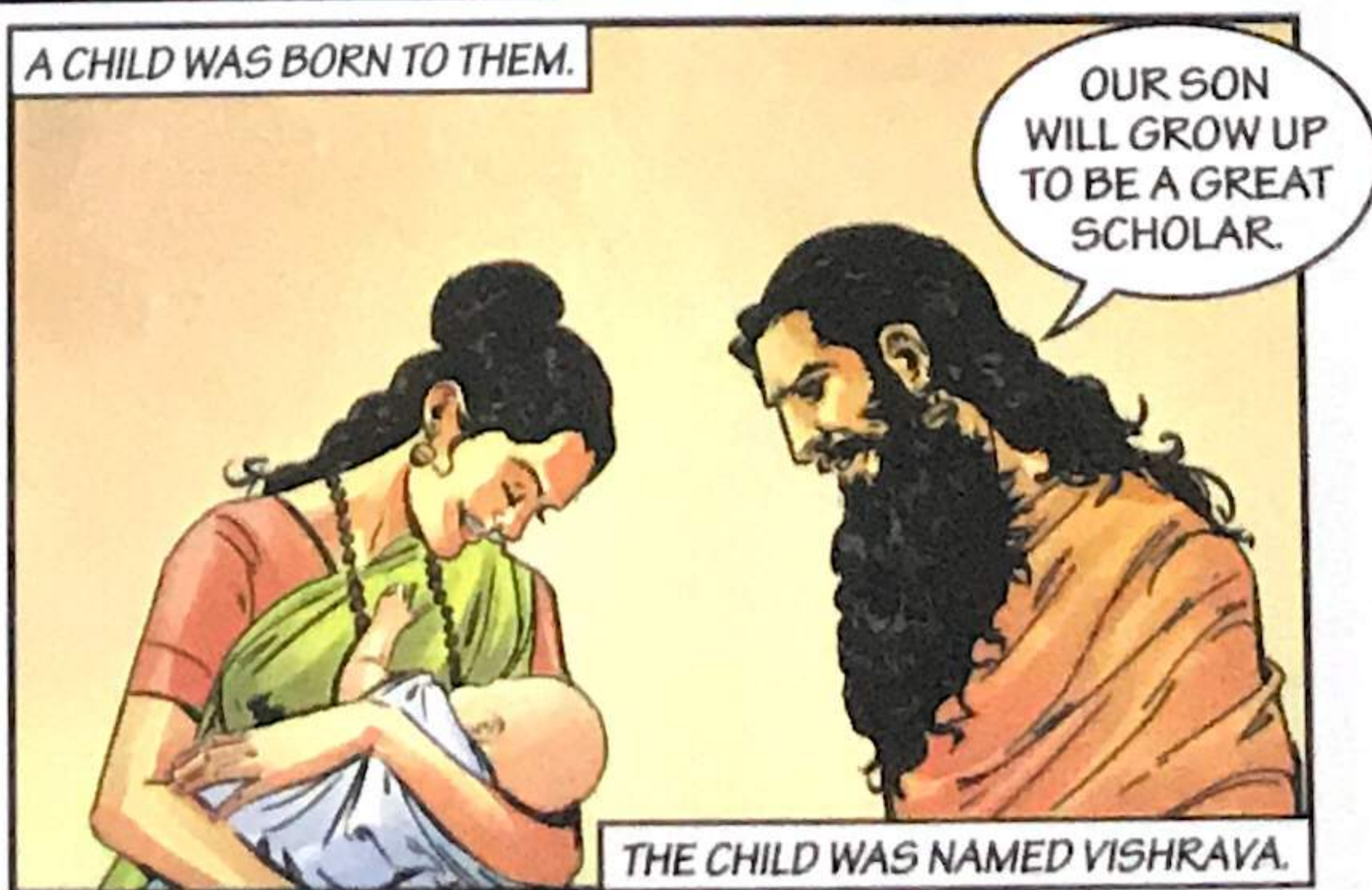
ONE DAY THE ASHRAM HAD A NEW GUEST. IT WAS SAGE PULASTYA, ONE OF BRAHMA'S MIND-BORN SONS.



PULASTYA STAYED ON IN THE ASHRAM. IN TIME, HE MARRIED TRINABINDU'S DAUGHTER, MANINI.



A CHILD WAS BORN TO THEM.



THE CHILD WAS NAMED VISHRAVA.

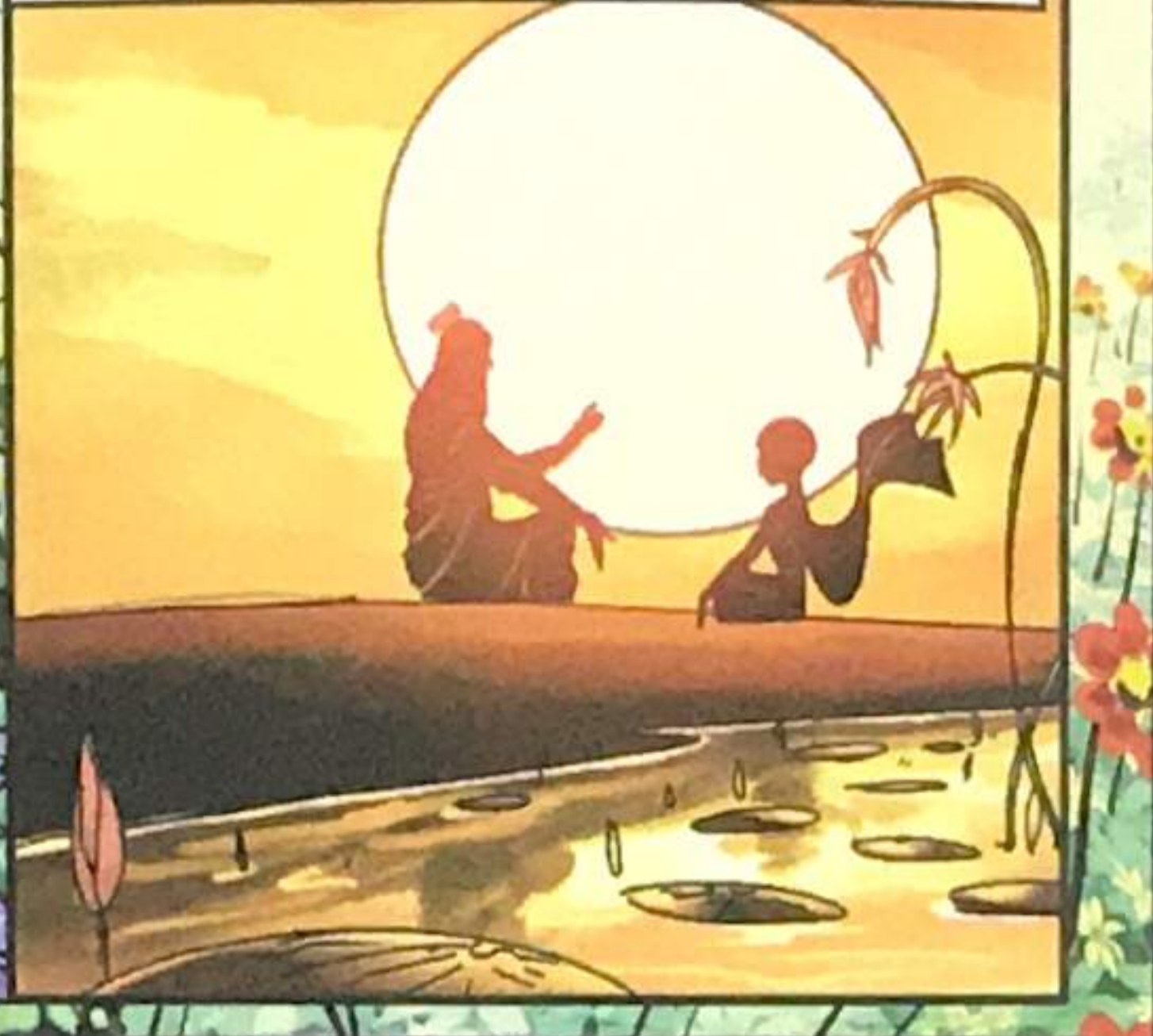
* MYTHOLOGICAL BEINGS

^ THE FIRST OF THE FOUR YUGAS. ALSO CALLED THE AGE OF TRUTH.

VISHRAVA WAS A GENTLE AND KIND-HEARTED BOY.

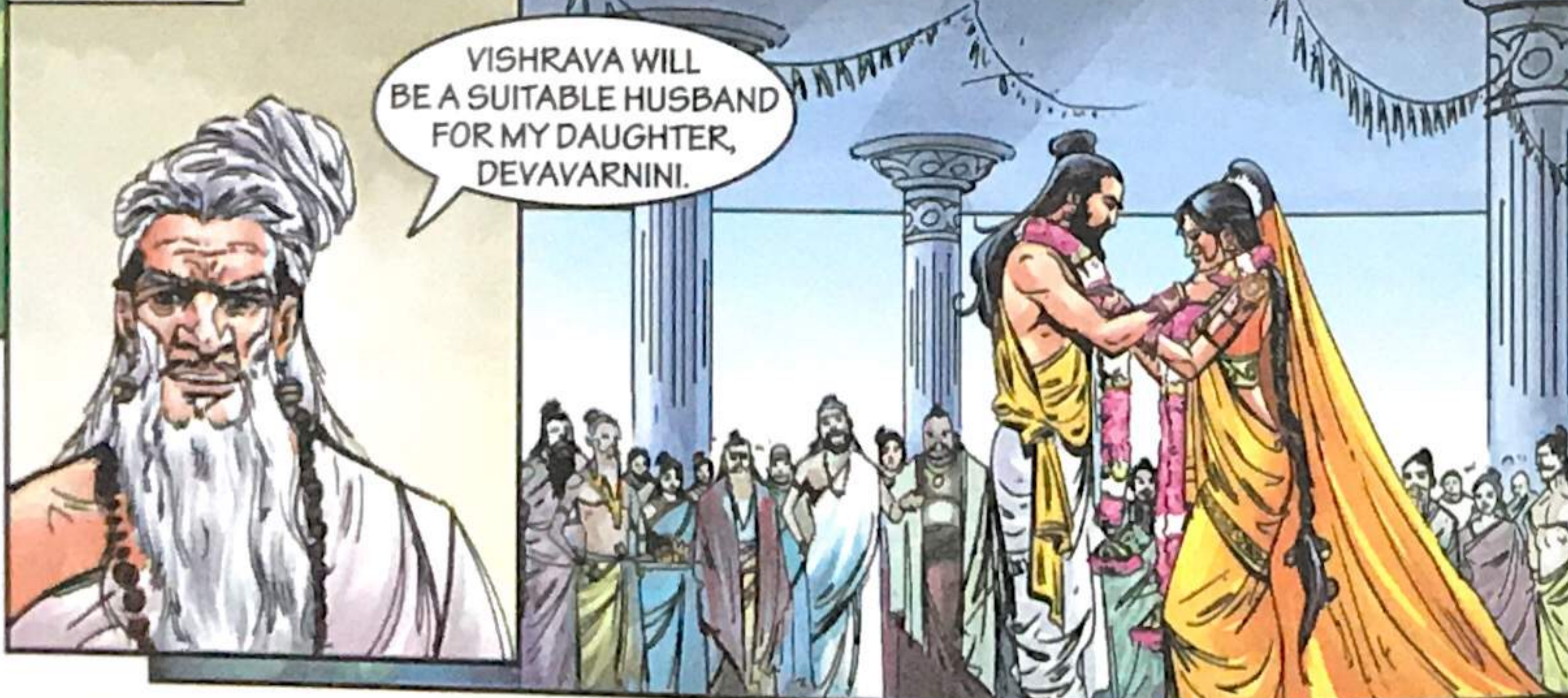


HE WAS INTELLIGENT LIKE HIS FATHER. AS HE GREW UP, HE GOT GREAT POWERS THROUGH PRAYER AND PENANCE.



HIS FAME SPREAD FAR AND WIDE, AND REACHED THE EARS OF RISHI BHARADWAJA.

BHARADWAJA'S WISH WAS GRANTED. VISHRAVA AND DEVAVARNINI WERE MARRIED.



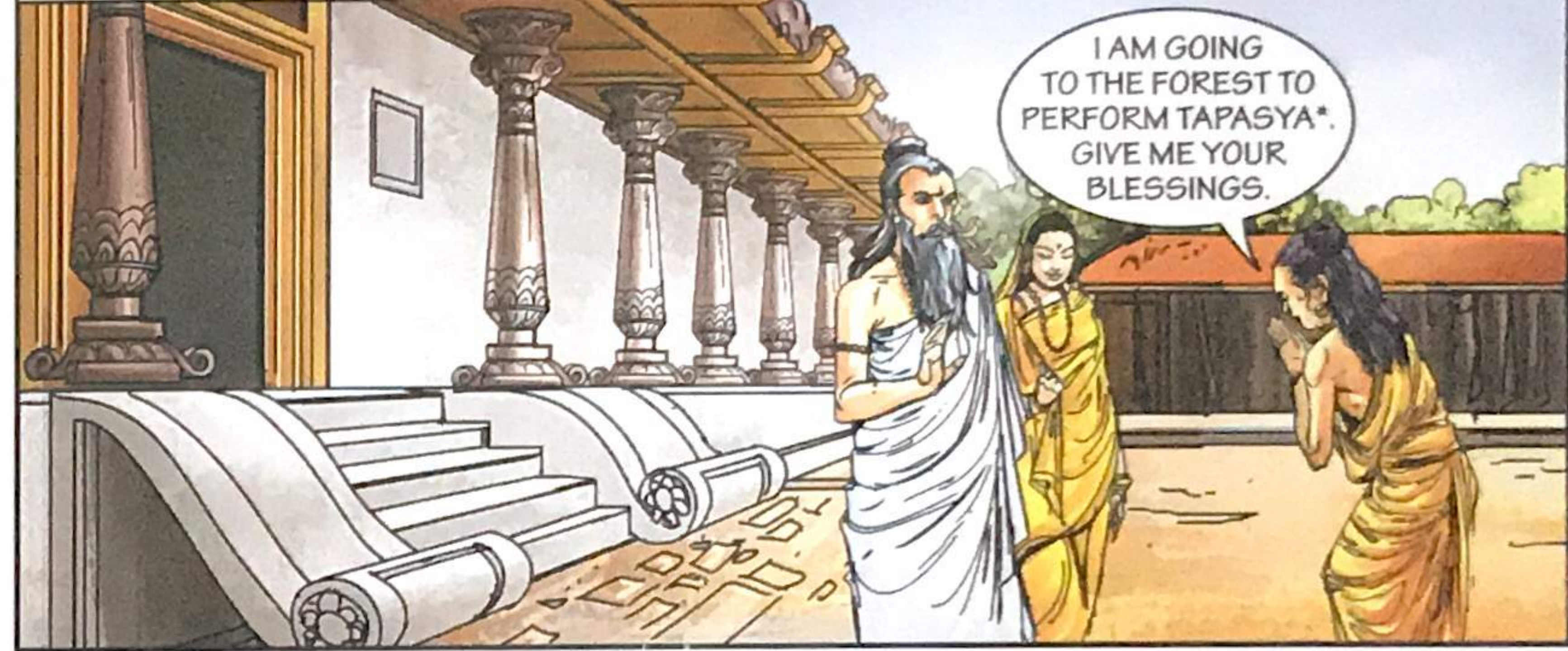
SOON, A SON WAS BORN TO THEM.

THE CHILD IS EXACTLY LIKE HIS FATHER. HE WILL BE CALLED VAISRAVANA.

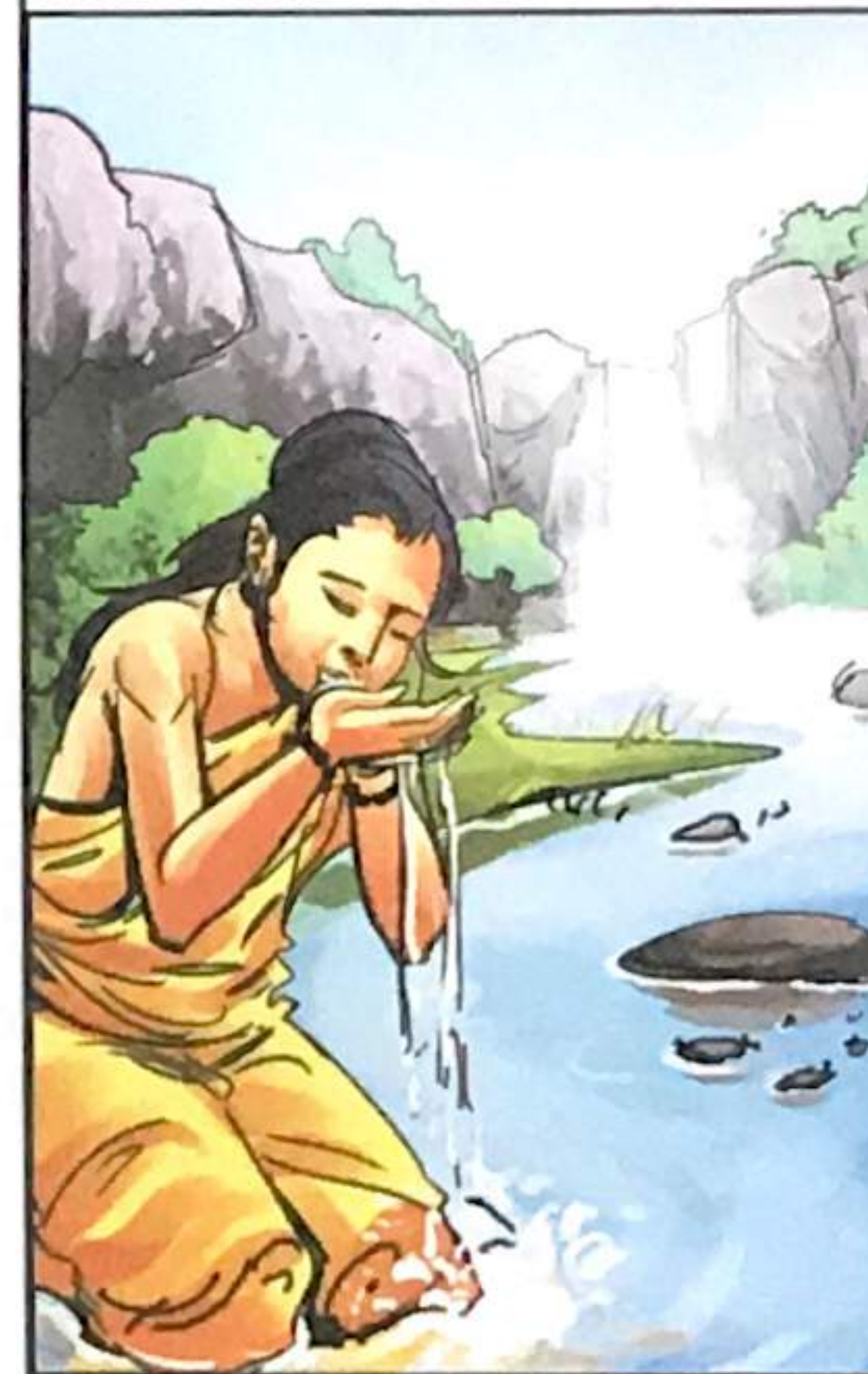
OUR CHILD IS DESTINED FOR GREATNESS.



WHEN KUBERA GREW UP -



KUBERA PERFORMED TAPASYA BY FIRST LIVING ON ONLY WATER...



... THEN ON AIR ...

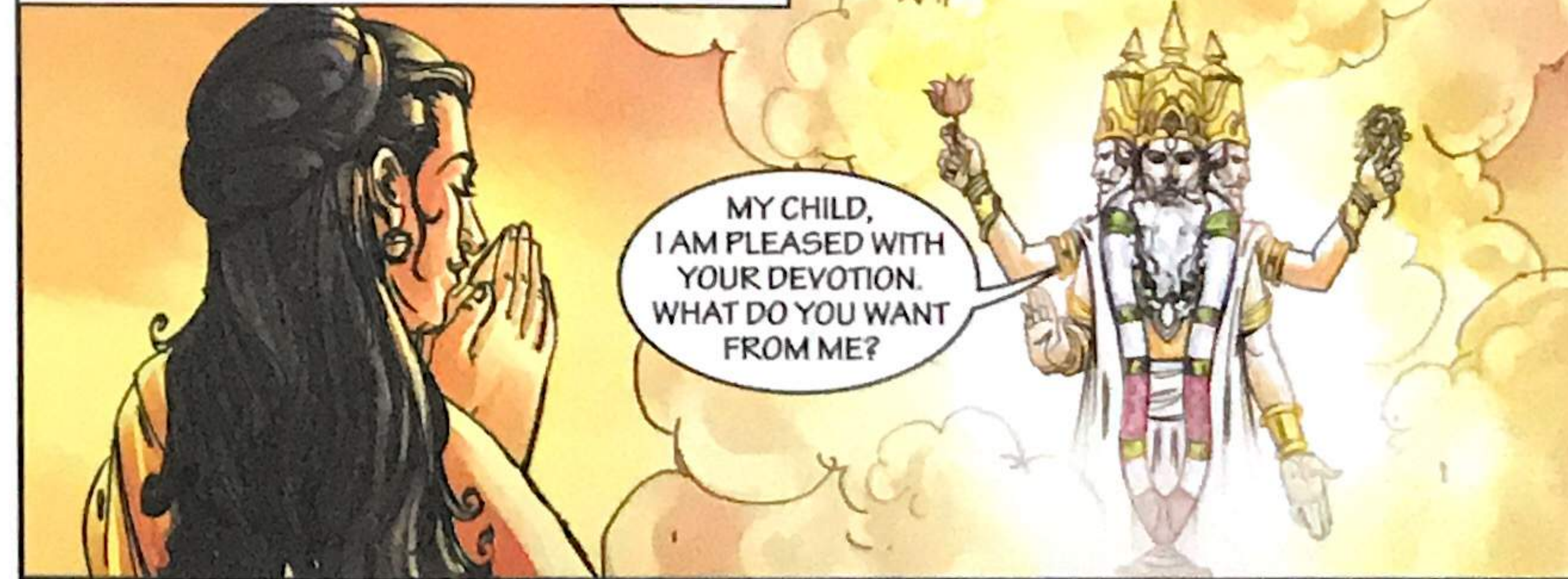


... AND THEN WITH NEITHER WATER NOR AIR.

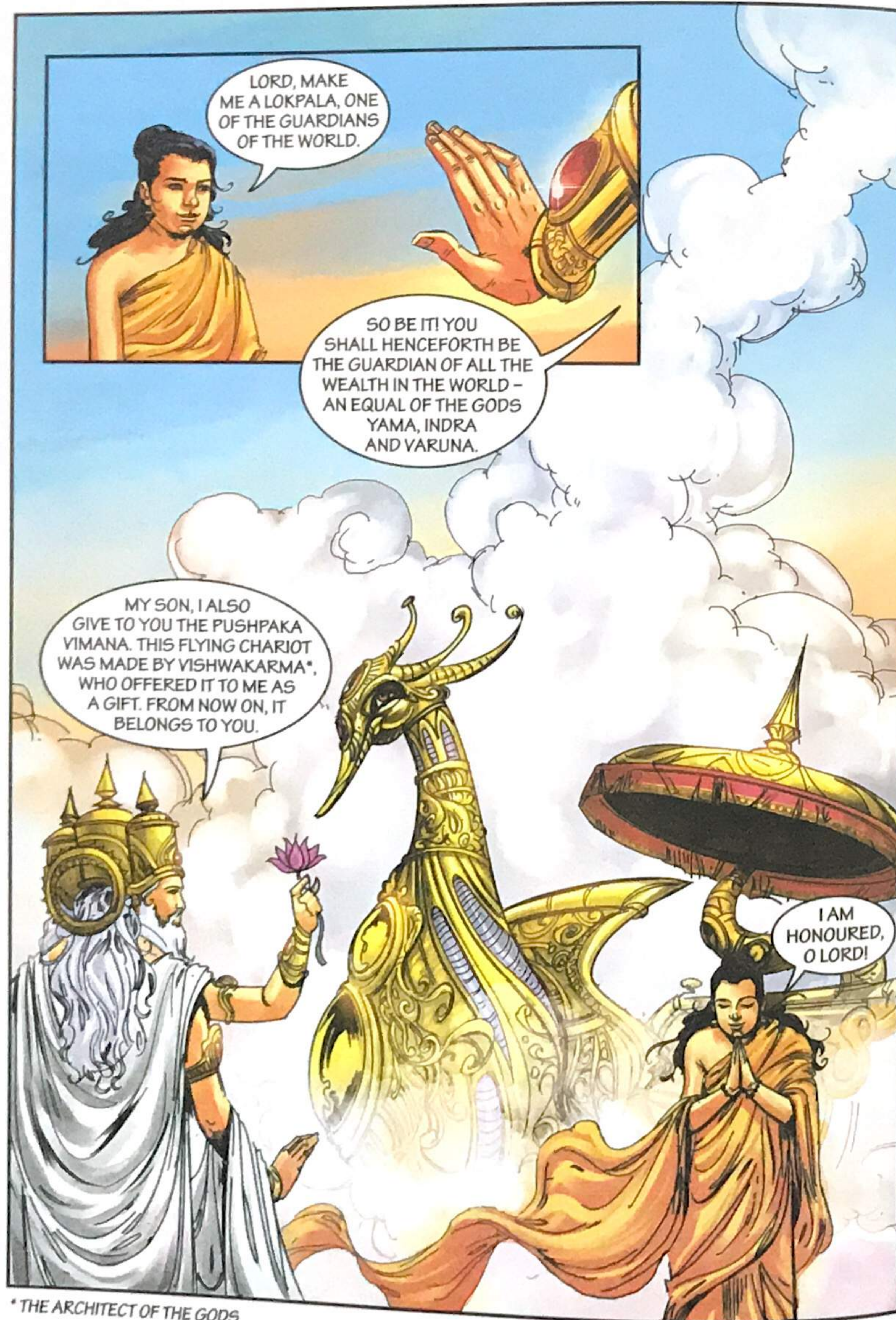


HIS PENANCE CONTINUED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.

THEN, HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER, BRAHMA, APPEARED.

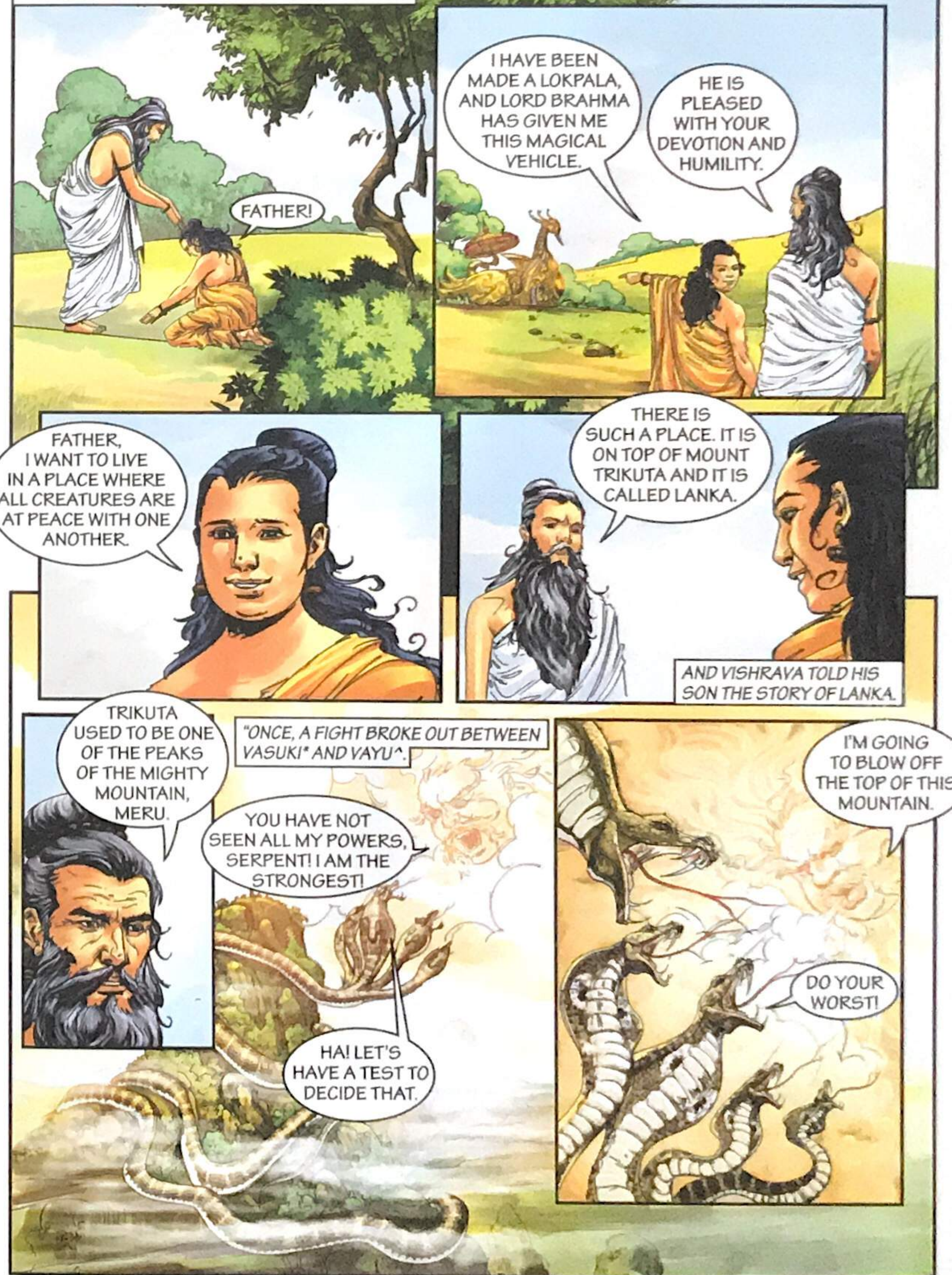


*PENANCE

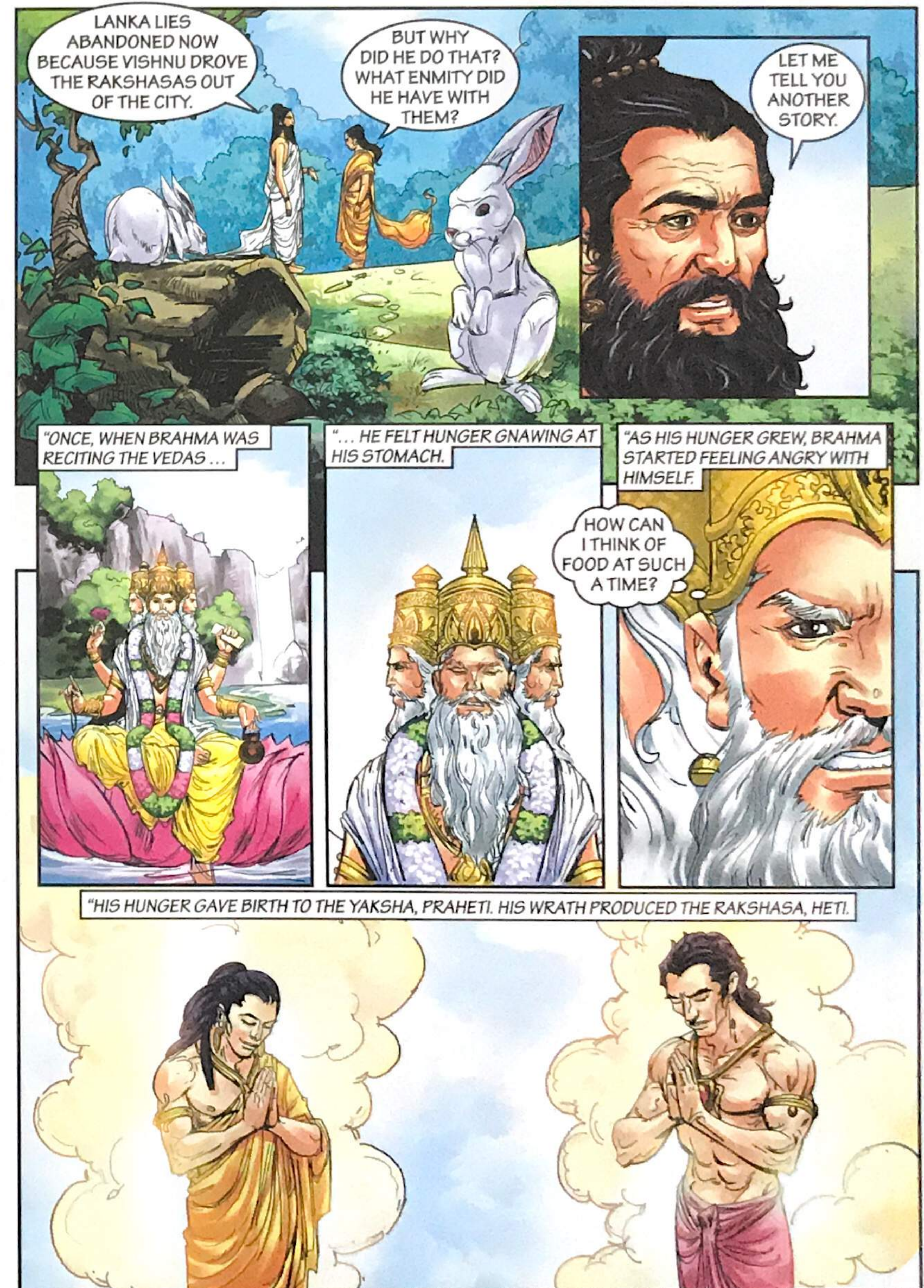


* THE ARCHITECT OF THE GODS

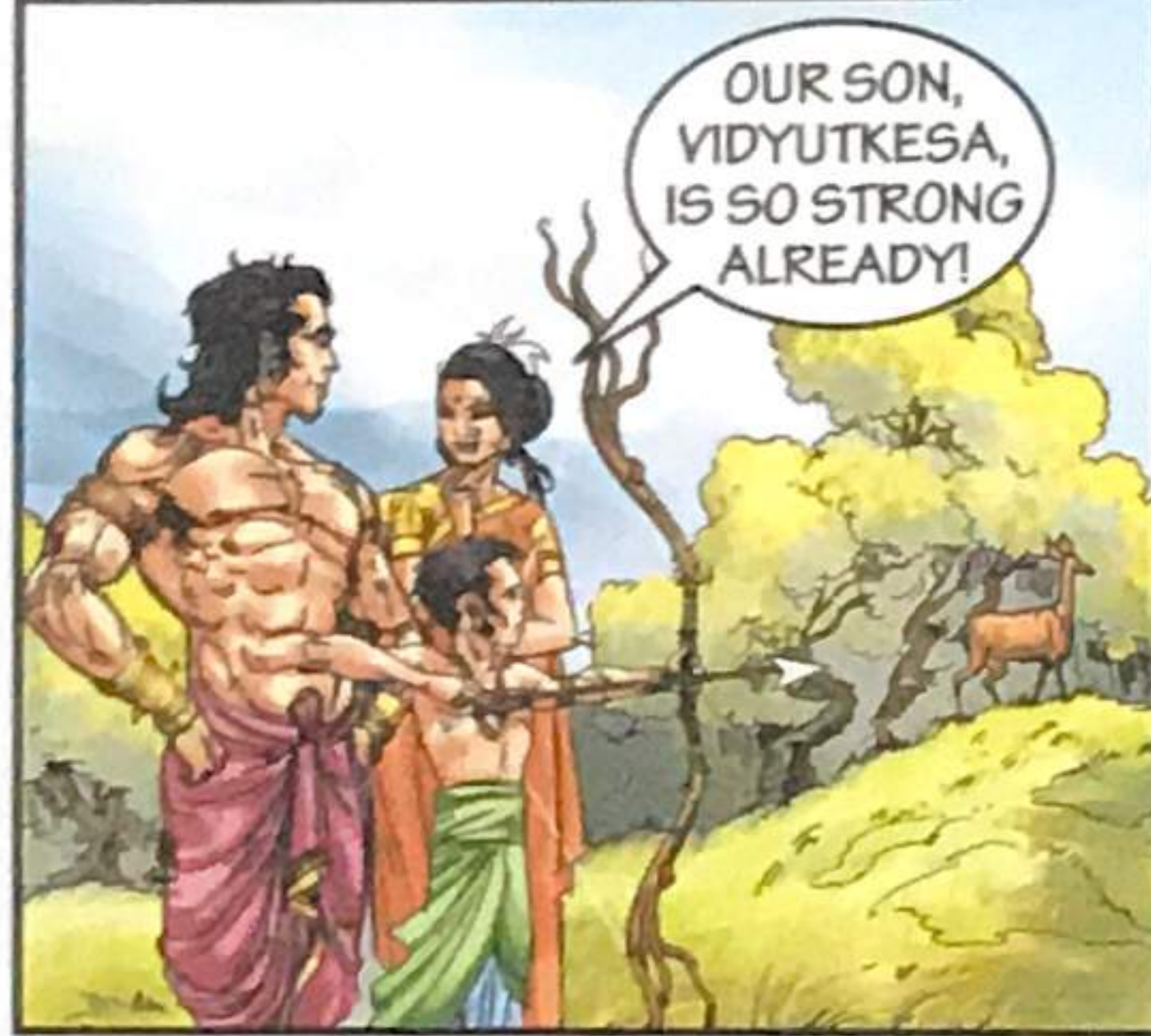
VISHRAVA CAME TO THE FOREST TO SEE HIS SON.



*KING OF THE SERPENTS
^GOD OF WIND



"HETI MARRIED BHAYA, YAMA'S SISTER.



OUR SON, VIDYUTKESA, IS SO STRONG ALREADY!

"WHEN VIDYUTKESA GREW UP, HE MARRIED A GIANTESS NAMED SALAKANTAKA. A SON WAS BORN TO THEM.



"BUT THEY CARELESSLY ABANDONED THE BABY IN THE VALLEY OF MOUNT MANTHARA.



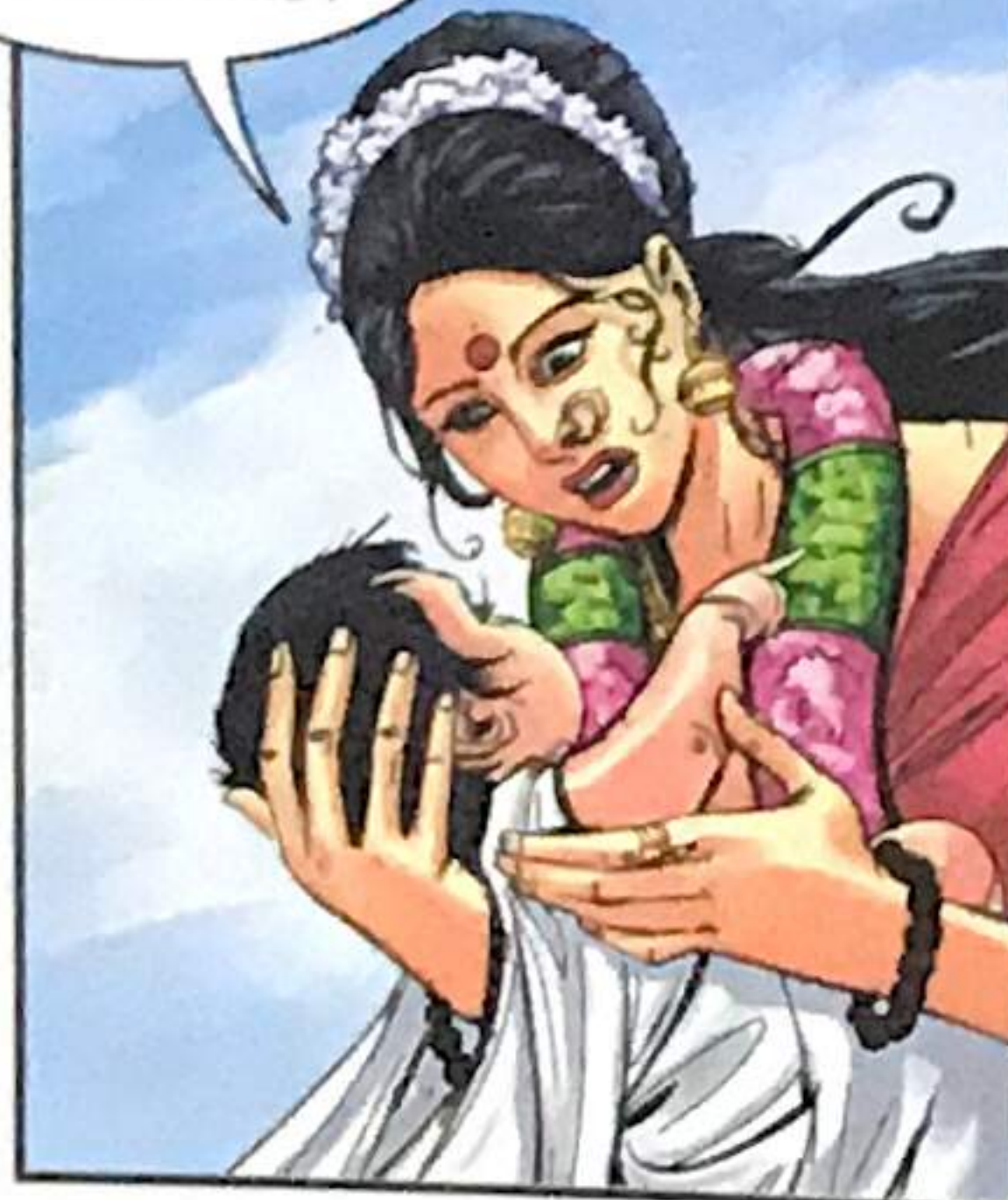
WAAAAAH

"SHIVA AND PARVATI WERE PASSING BY.

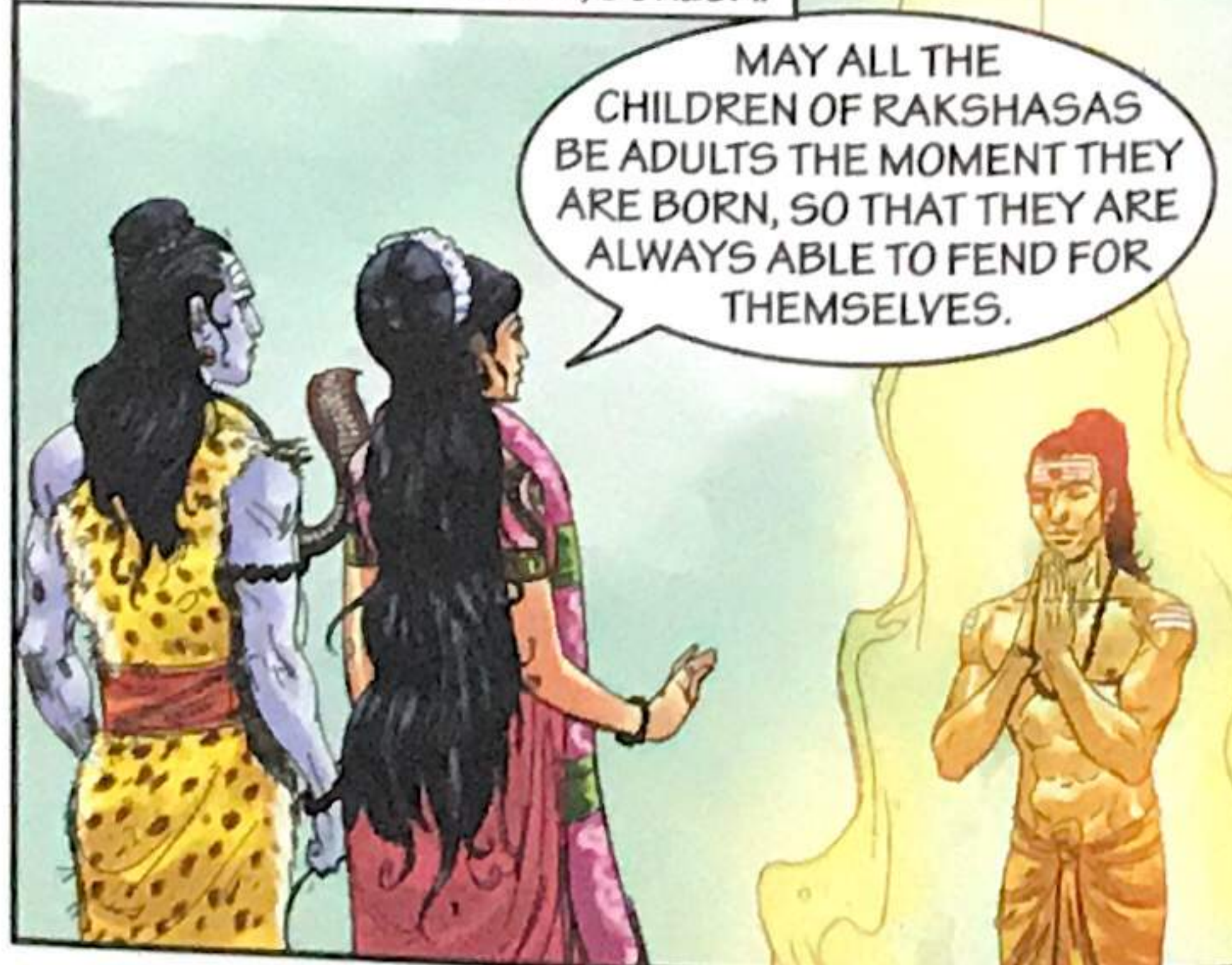


MY LORD, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BABY'S CRY.

HOW COULD ANYONE BE SO HEARTLESS AND LEAVE THEIR CHILD TO DIE LIKE THIS?

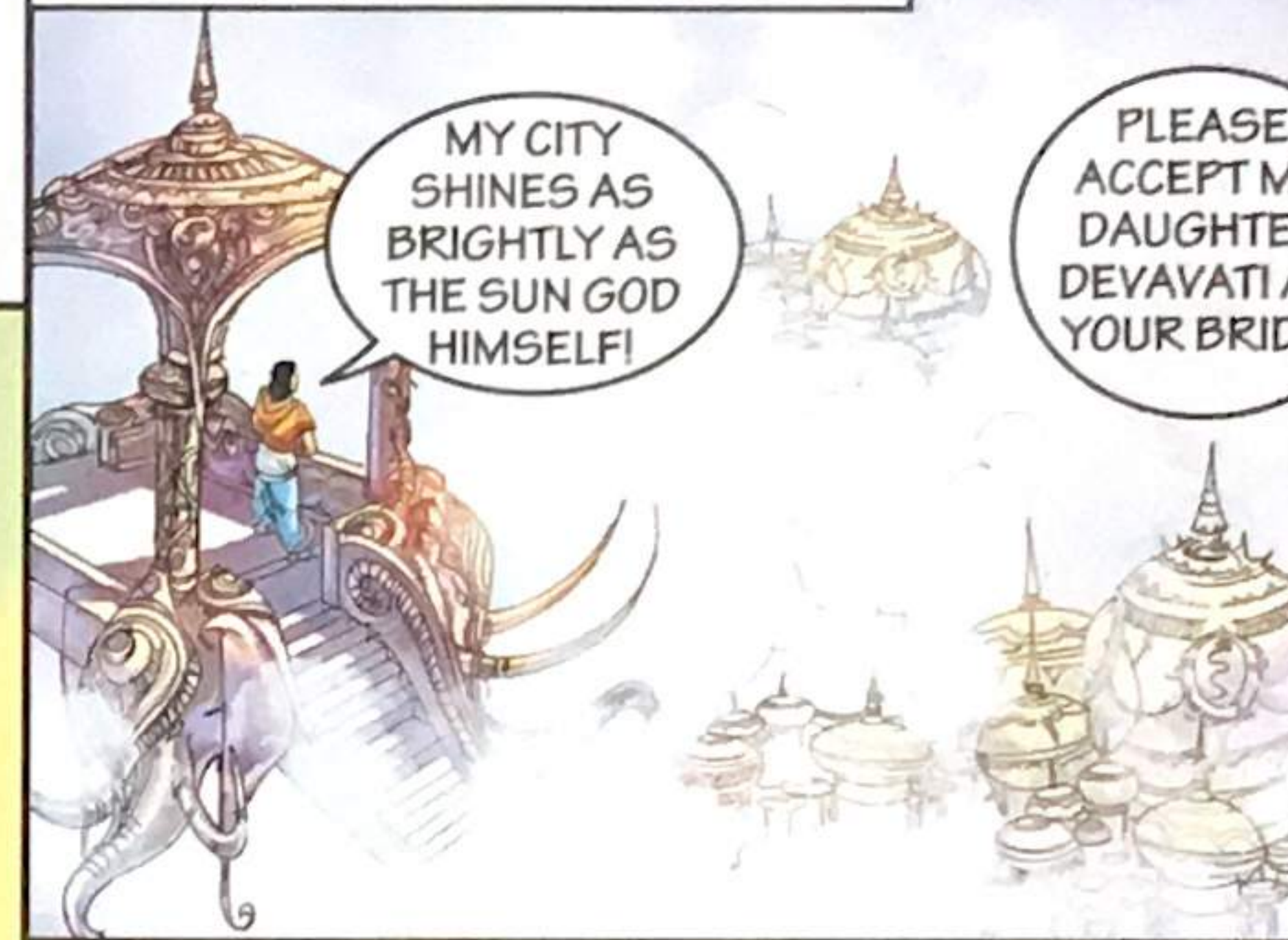


"PARVATI BLESSED THE BABY, WHO WAS INSTANTLY TRANSFORMED INTO A YOUTH, SUKESA.



MAY ALL THE CHILDREN OF RAKSHASAS BE ADULTS THE MOMENT THEY ARE BORN, SO THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS ABLE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES.

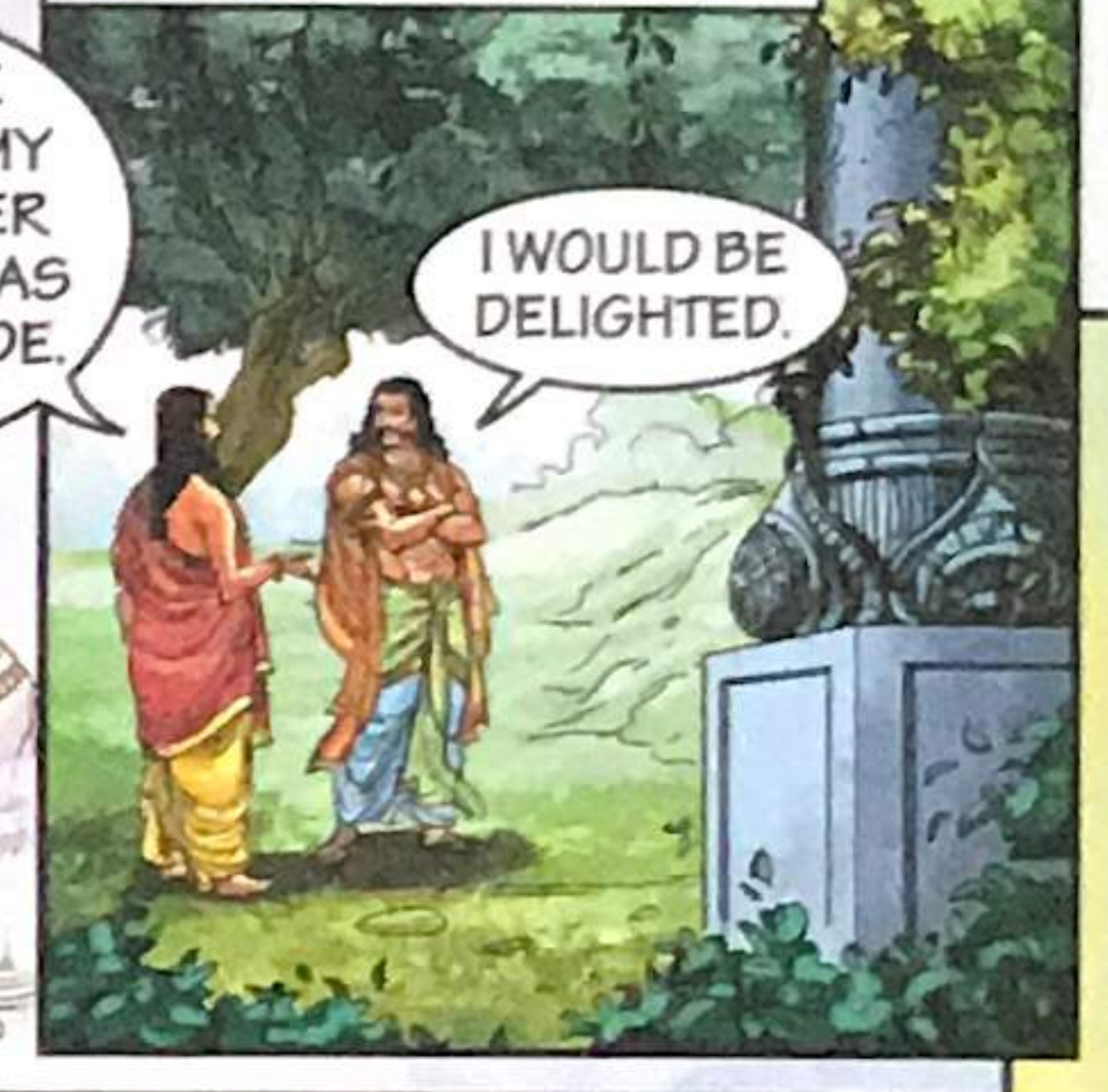
"SUKESA ALSO RECEIVED GREAT WEALTH AND A FLYING CITY AS GIFTS FROM SHIVA.



MY CITY SHINES AS BRIGHTLY AS THE SUN GOD HIMSELF!

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DAUGHTER DEVAVATI AS YOUR BRIDE.

"AWESTRUCK BY SUKESA'S FORTUNE AND SPLENDOR, THE GANDHARVA GRAMANI APPROACHED HIM.



I WOULD BE DELIGHTED.

"SUKESA AND DEVAVATI HAD THREE SONS - MALYAVAN, SUMALI AND MALI. THEY WERE STRONG AND POWERFUL.



GRANT US INVINCIBILITY, O BRAHMA. LET US BE FREE FROM FEAR AND DREAD.

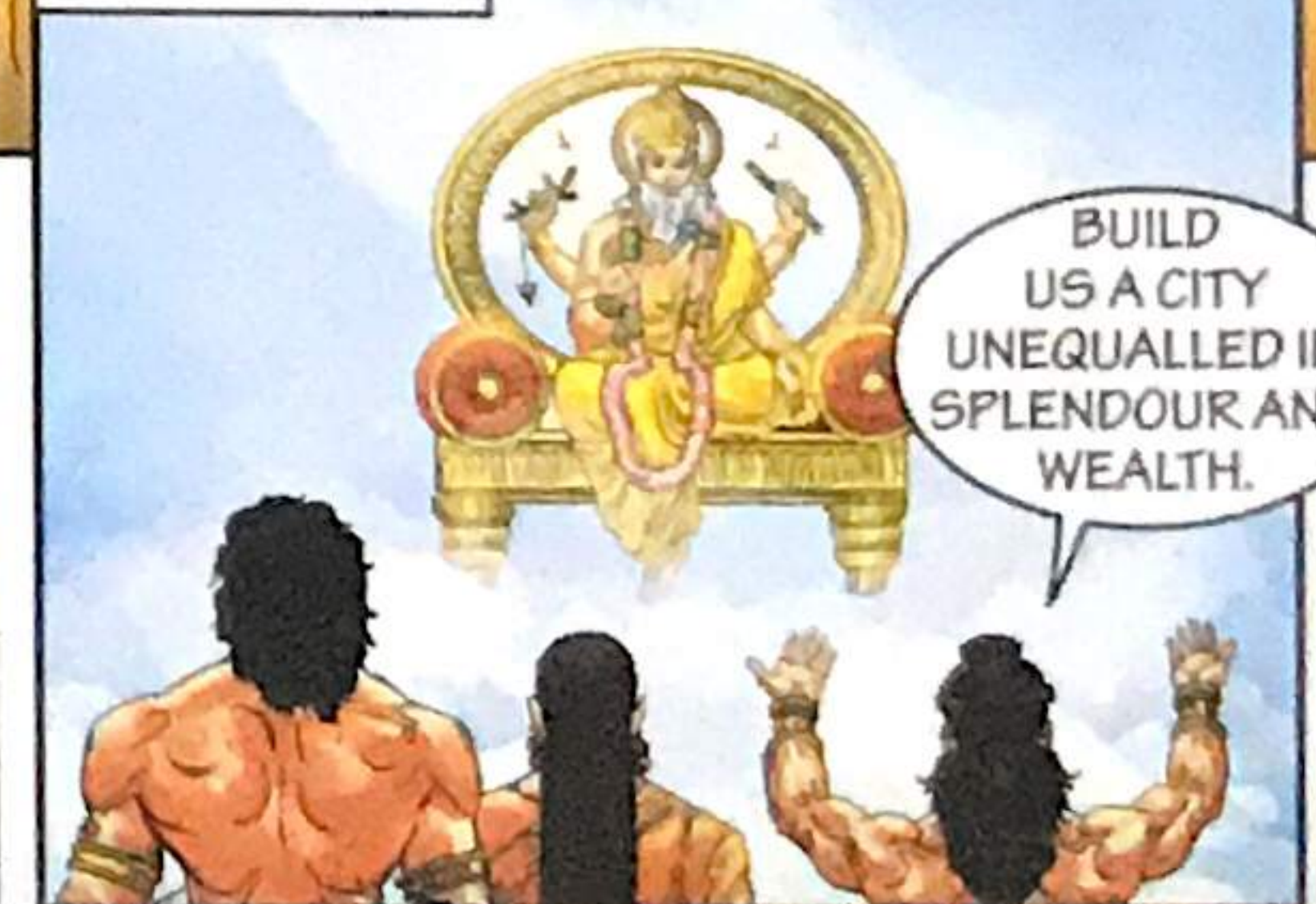
"WITH THE BOONS THAT THEY ATTAINED FROM BRAHMA, THEY GAINED MORE STRENGTH.

"BUT THEY PUT THEIR GIFTS TO ILL USE.



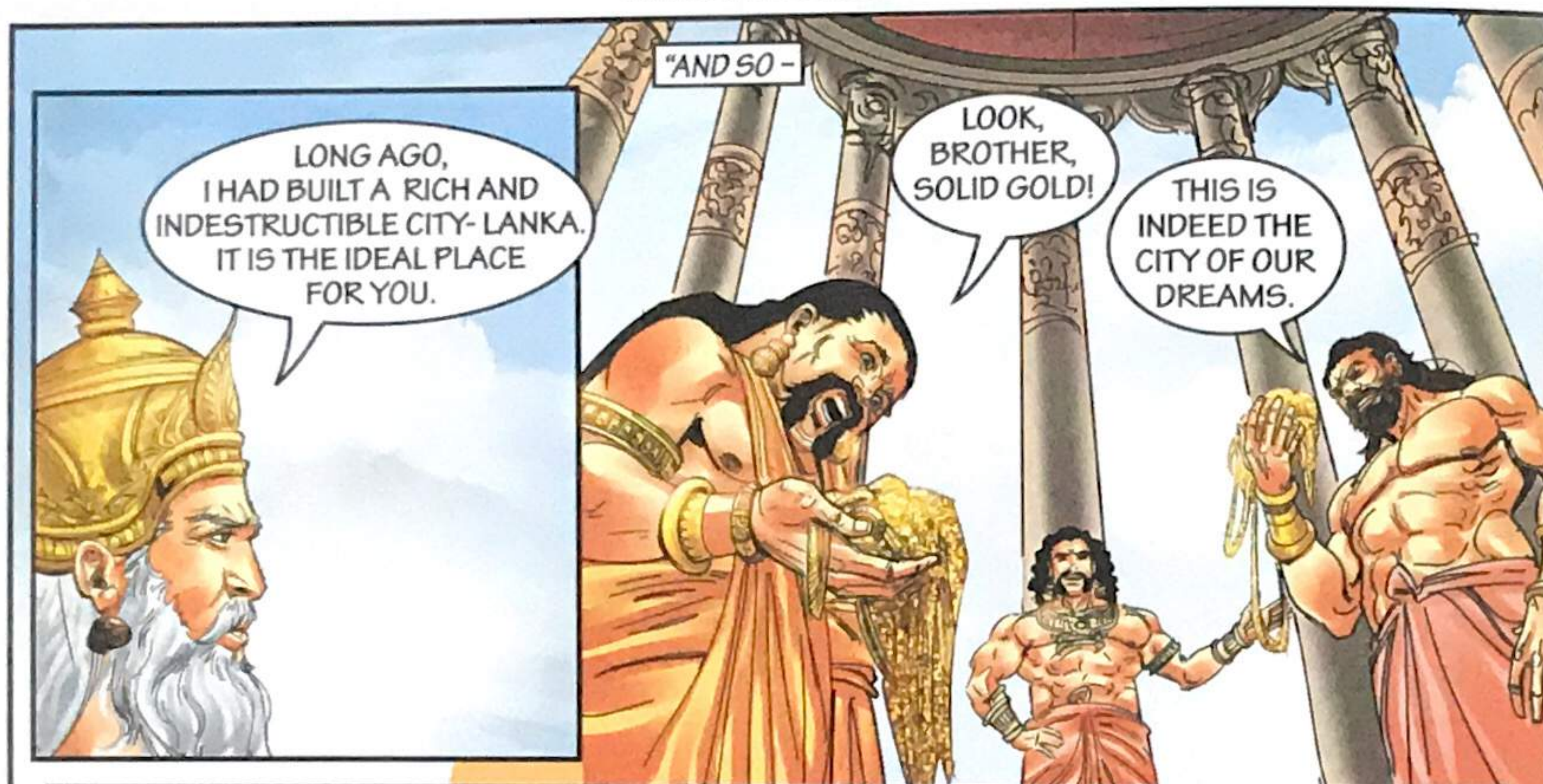
YOU DARE CHALLENGE ME? LET ME GIVE YOU A TASTE OF MY SWORD!

"FINALLY, A DESIRE FOR A HOME OF THEIR OWN OVERCAME THEM AND THEY APPROACHED VISHWAKARMA.

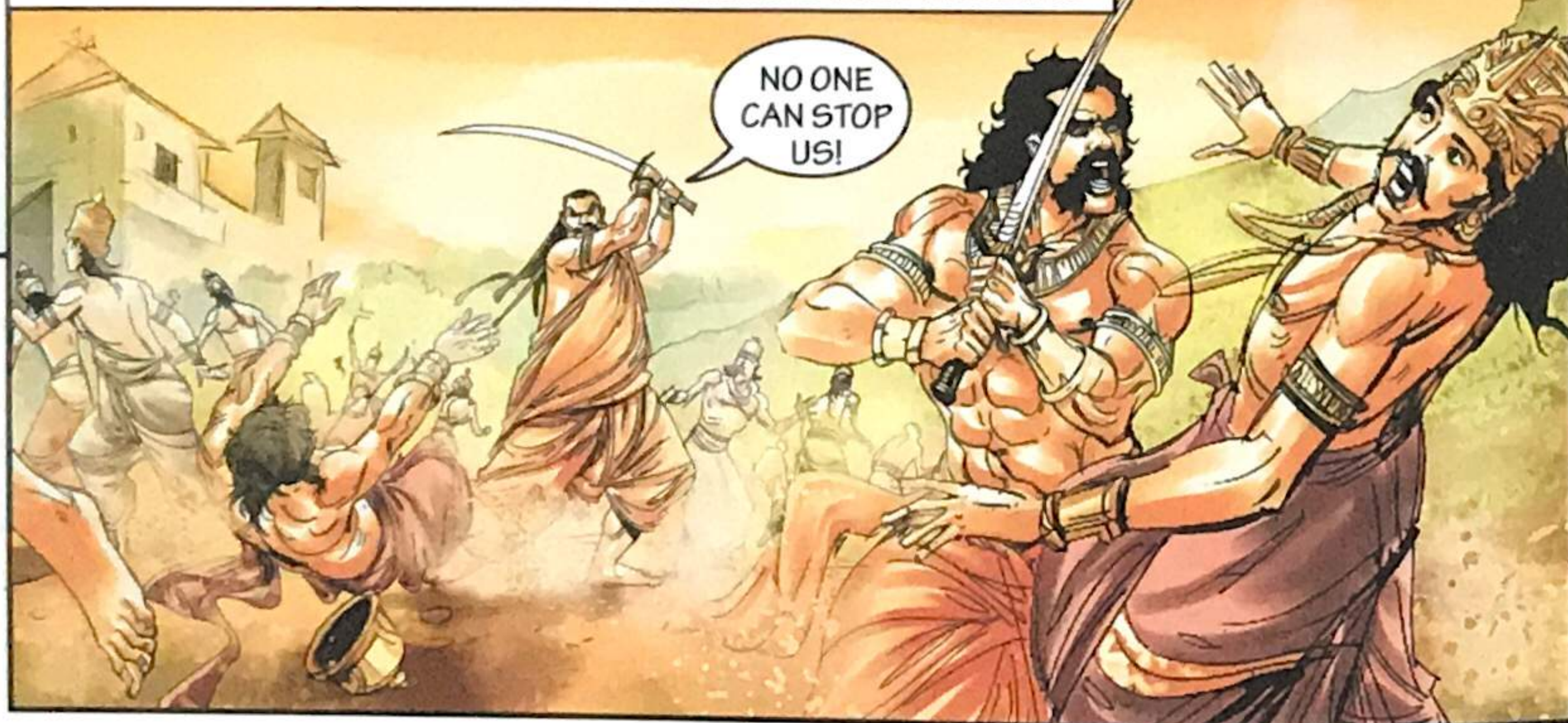


BUILD US A CITY UNEQUALLED IN SPLENDOR AND WEALTH.

"THEY CONQUERED KINGDOM AFTER KINGDOM, PLUNDERING AND LOOTING WHEREVER THEY WENT.



"IN TIME, THE THREE RAKSHASAS MARRIED AND FATHERED MANY CHILDREN. THEIR RACE BECAME UNDEFEATABLE. THEY CHALLENGED EVEN THE DEVAS.



"THE DEVAS WENT TO SHIVA FOR HELP. BUT -



"SO -

SAVE US, LORD VISHNU. DESTROY THE RAKSHASAS BEFORE THEY REDUCE THE THREE REALMS TO ASHES.



"VISHNU FLEW DOWN ON GARUDA, HIS MOUNT, AND THE BATTLE BEGAN -



"THE STRONGEST OF THE BROTHERS, MALI, FACED VISHNU ON THE BATTLEFIELD.



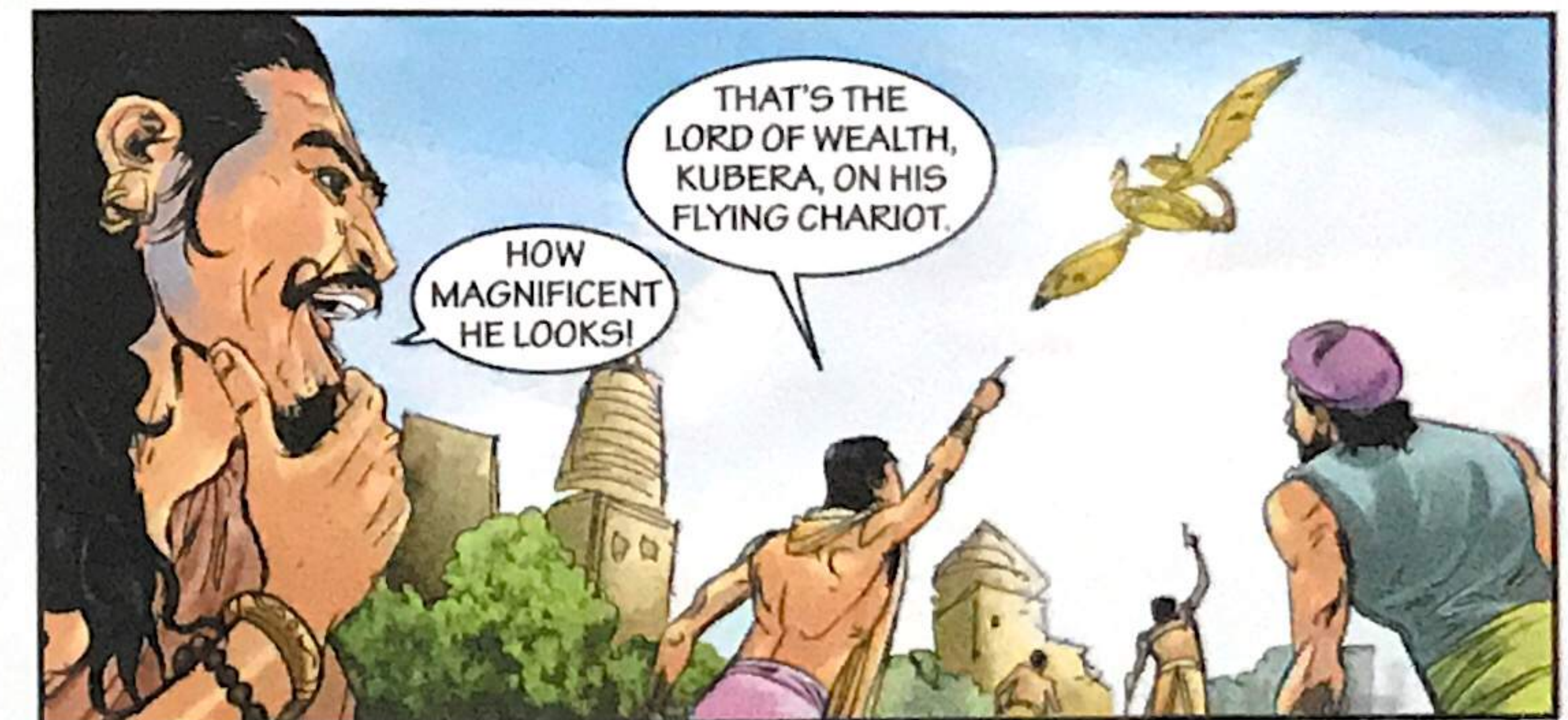
"THE WOUNDED MALI ATTACKED GARUDA.



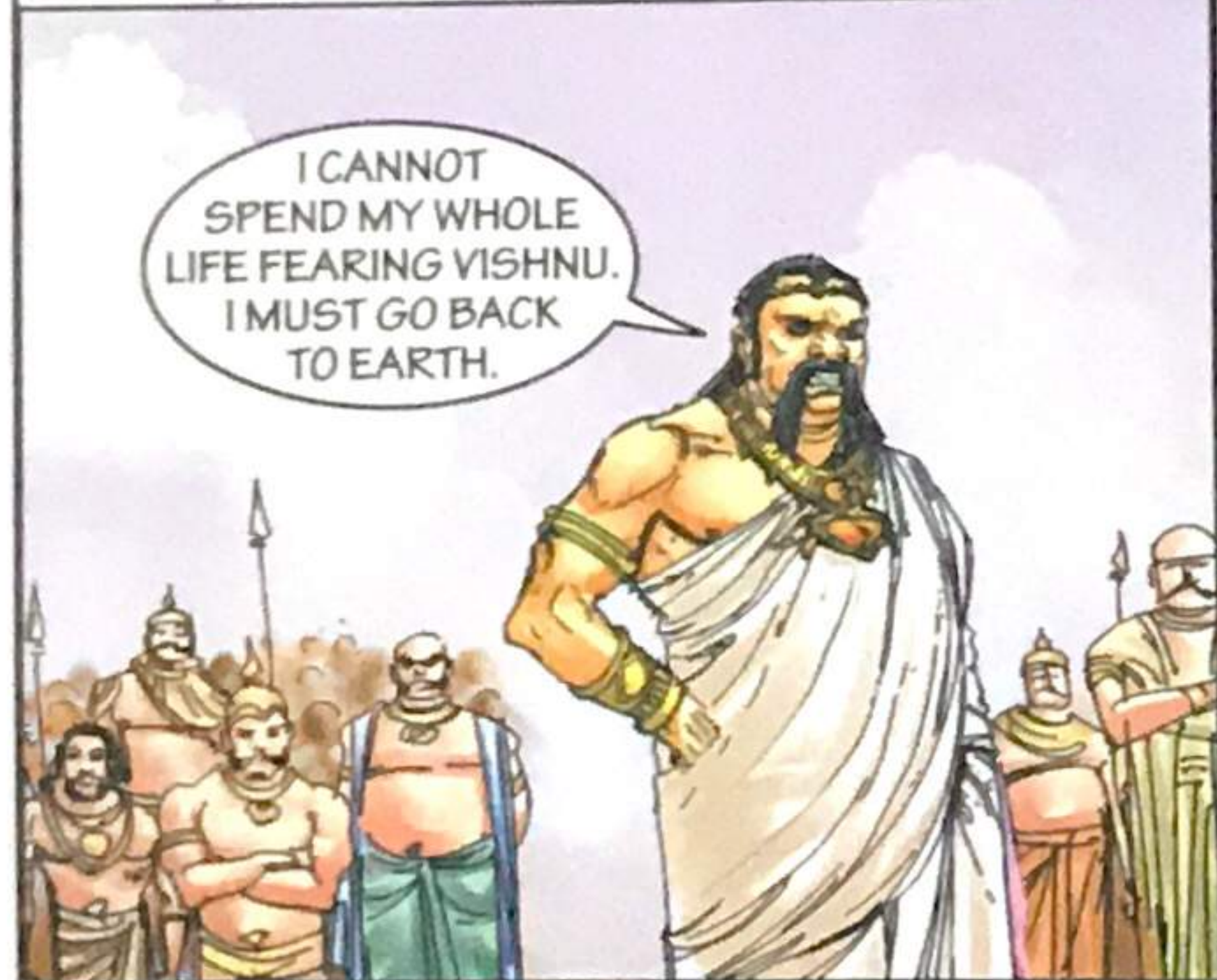
MALI IS GONE! THERE IS NO HOPE FOR US NOW.

"FURIOUS, VISHNU FLUNG HIS DEADLIEST WEAPON, THE SUDARSHAN CHAKRA ...





IN PATALA, THE RAKSHASAS WERE GETTING RESTLESS.



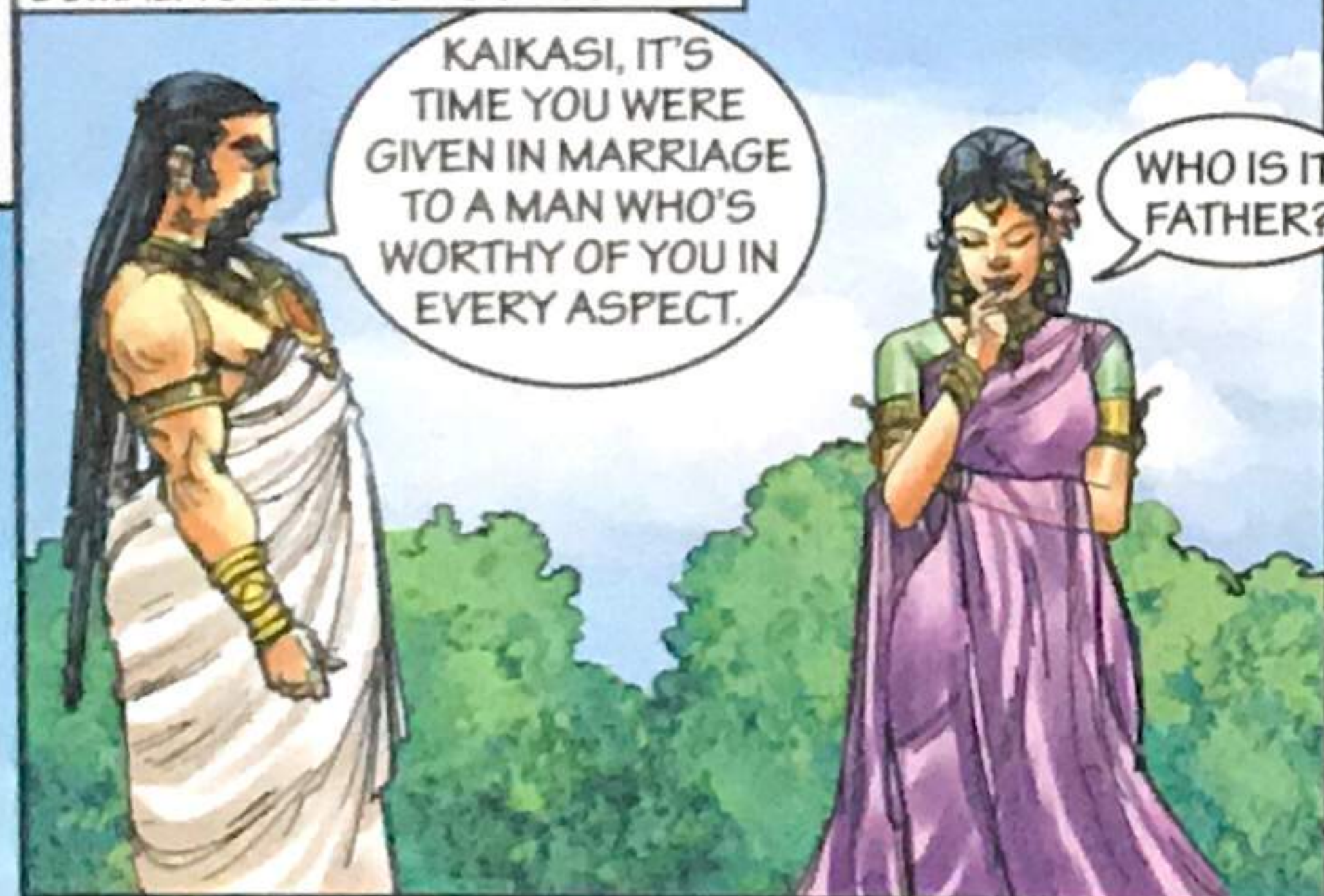
I CANNOT SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE FEARING VISHNU. I MUST GO BACK TO EARTH.

ONE DAY -

THAT'S KUBERA! ALL HIS GLORY IS BECAUSE OF HIS FATHER, VISHRAVA.



SUMALI TURNED TO HIS DAUGHTER.



KAIKASI, IT'S TIME YOU WERE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE TO A MAN WHO'S WORTHY OF YOU IN EVERY ASPECT.

WHO IS IT, FATHER?

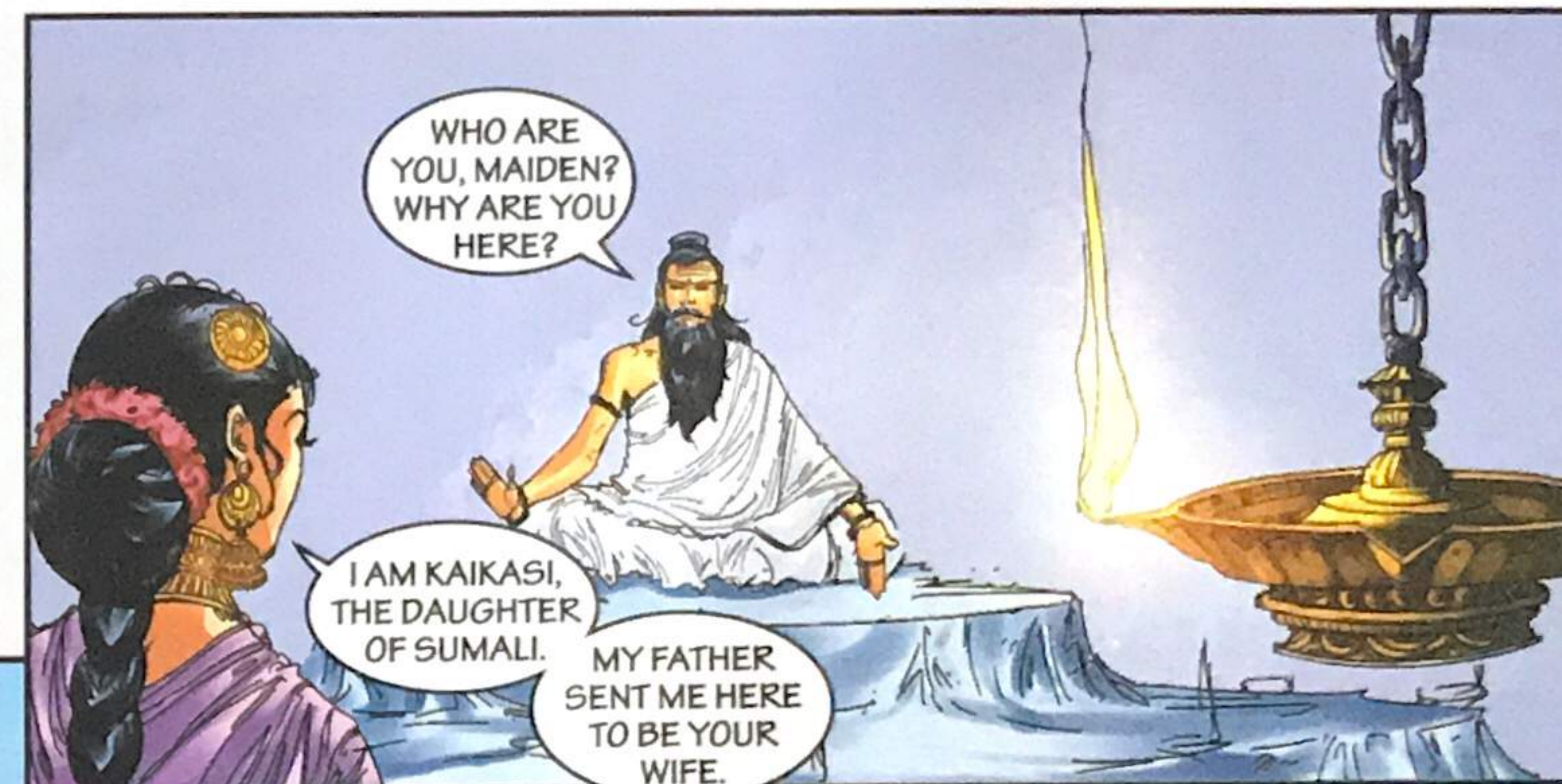
THE SAGE VISHRAVA. SO THAT YOUR CHILDREN ALSO SHINE AS BRIGHT AS THE LORD OF WEALTH.



FOLLOWING HER FATHER'S ADVICE, KAIKASI WENT TO VISHRAVA'S ASHRAM.



THE SAGE WAS SITTING DEEP IN MEDITATION.



WHO ARE YOU, MAIDEN? WHY ARE YOU HERE?

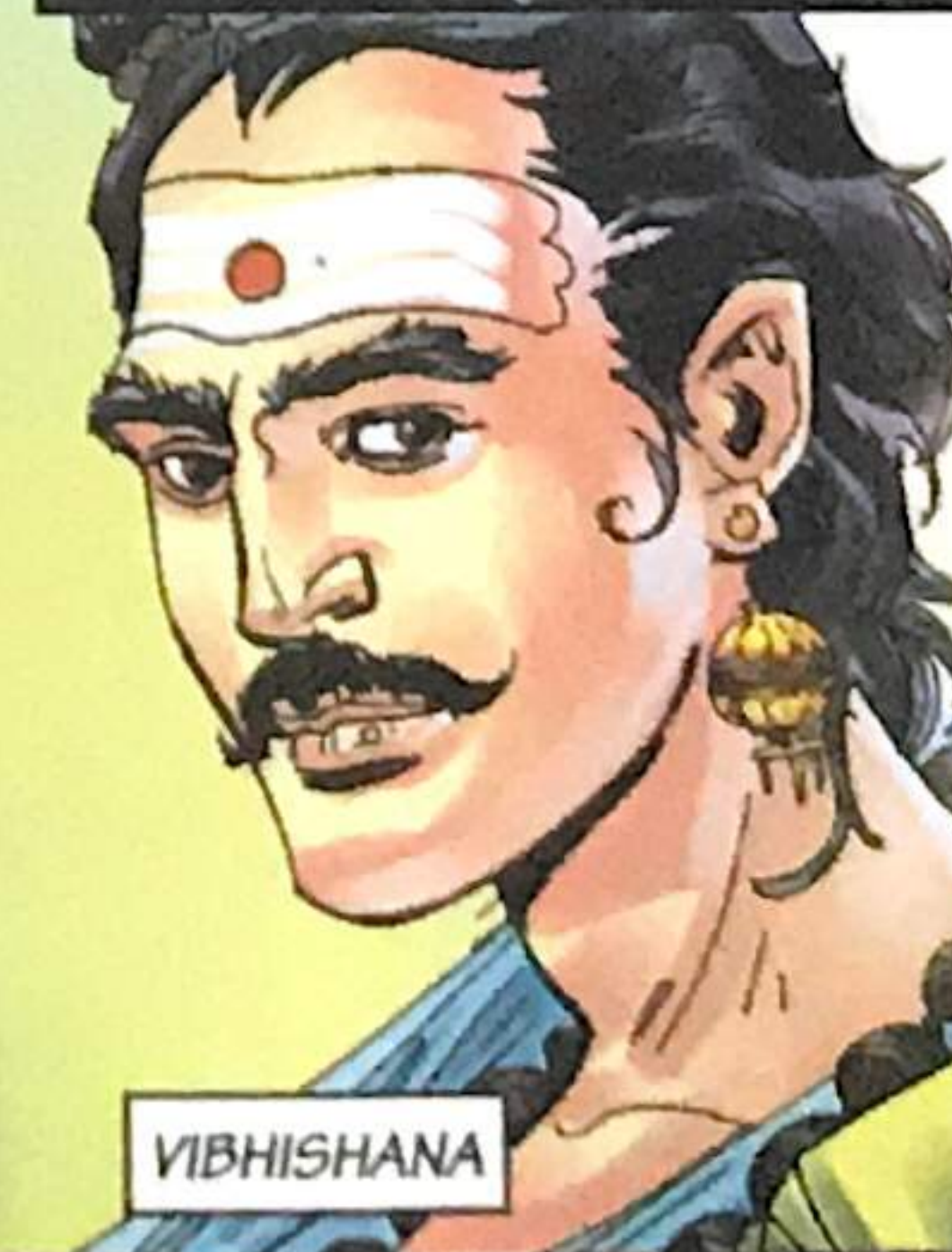
I AM KAIKASI, THE DAUGHTER OF SUMALI.

MY FATHER SENT ME HERE TO BE YOUR WIFE.

I ACCEPT. BUT BECAUSE YOU HAVE COME AT AN INAUSPICIOUS TIME, ALL YOUR CHILDREN EXCEPT ONE WILL BE FIERCE AND CRUEL.

KAIKASI HAD FOUR CHILDREN.

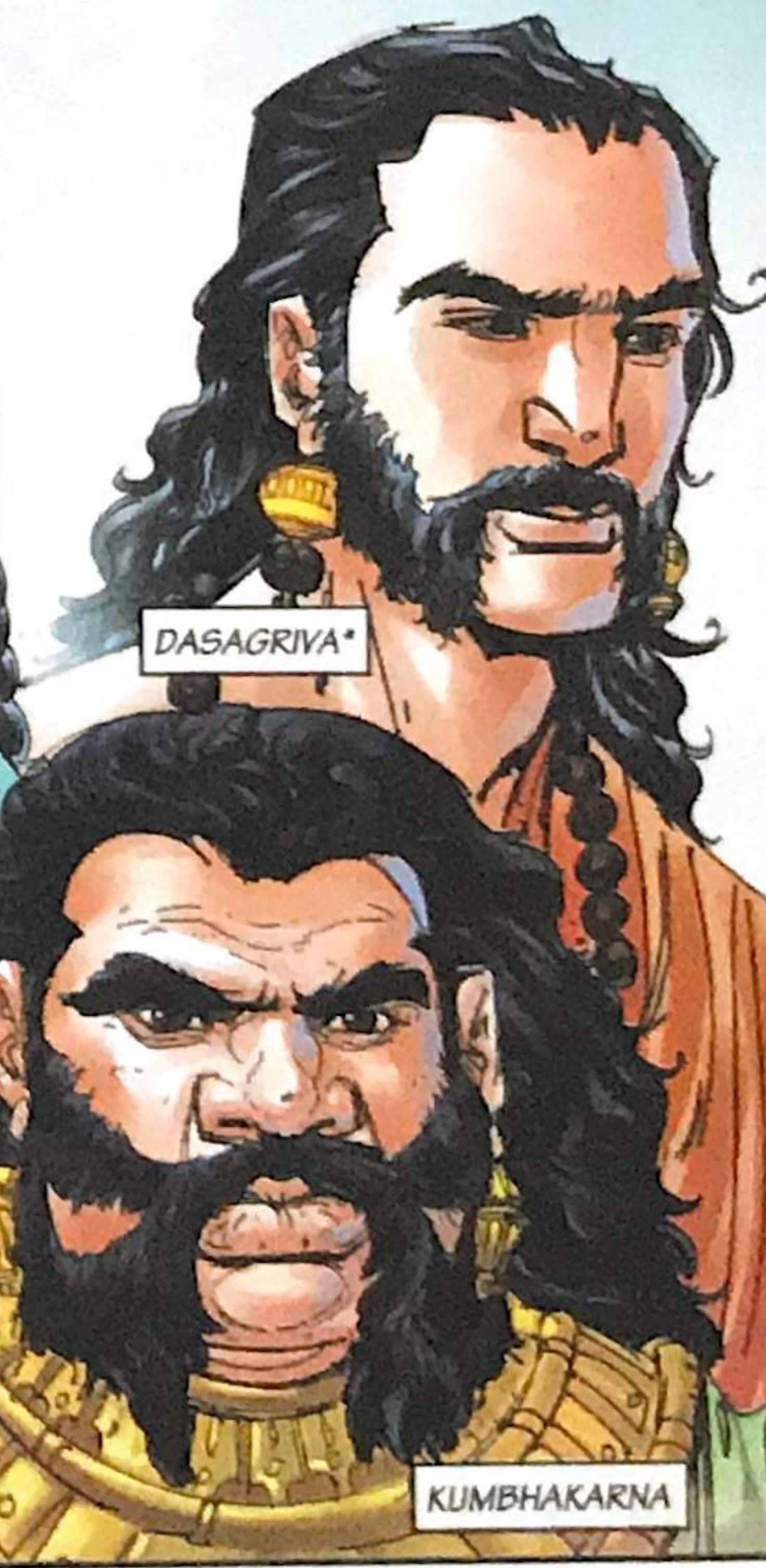
SURPANAKHA



VIBHISHANA



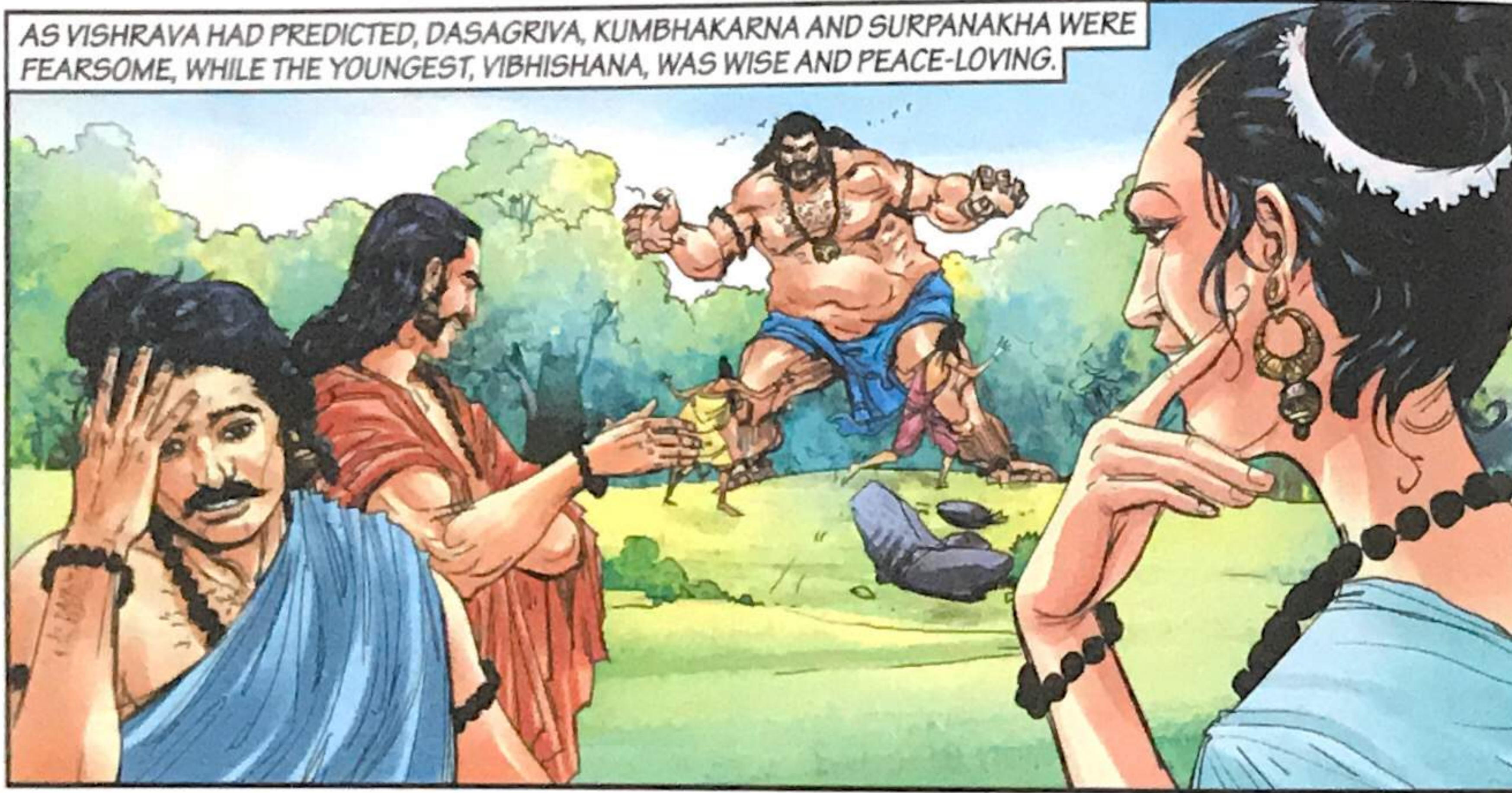
DASAGRIVA*



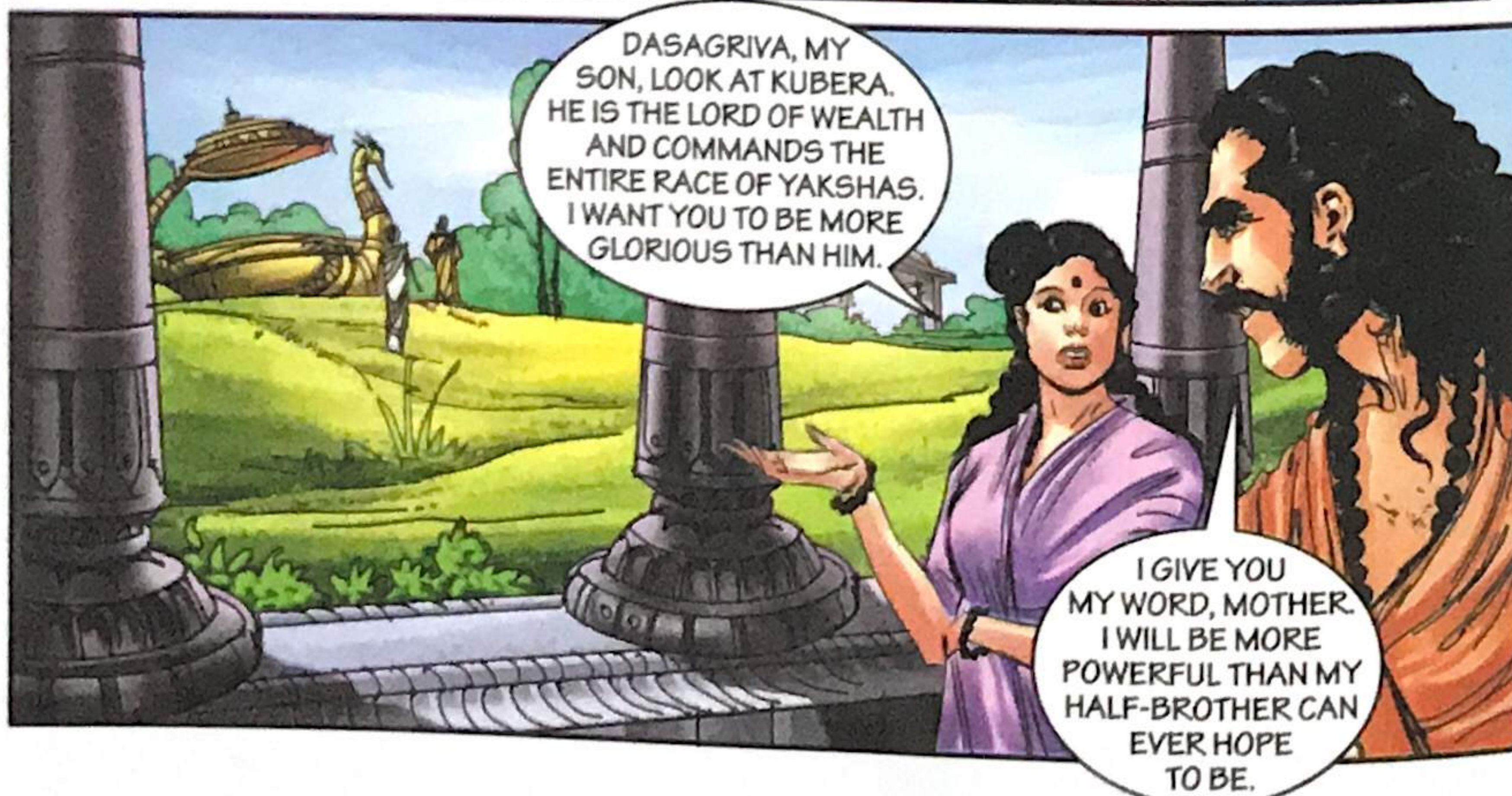
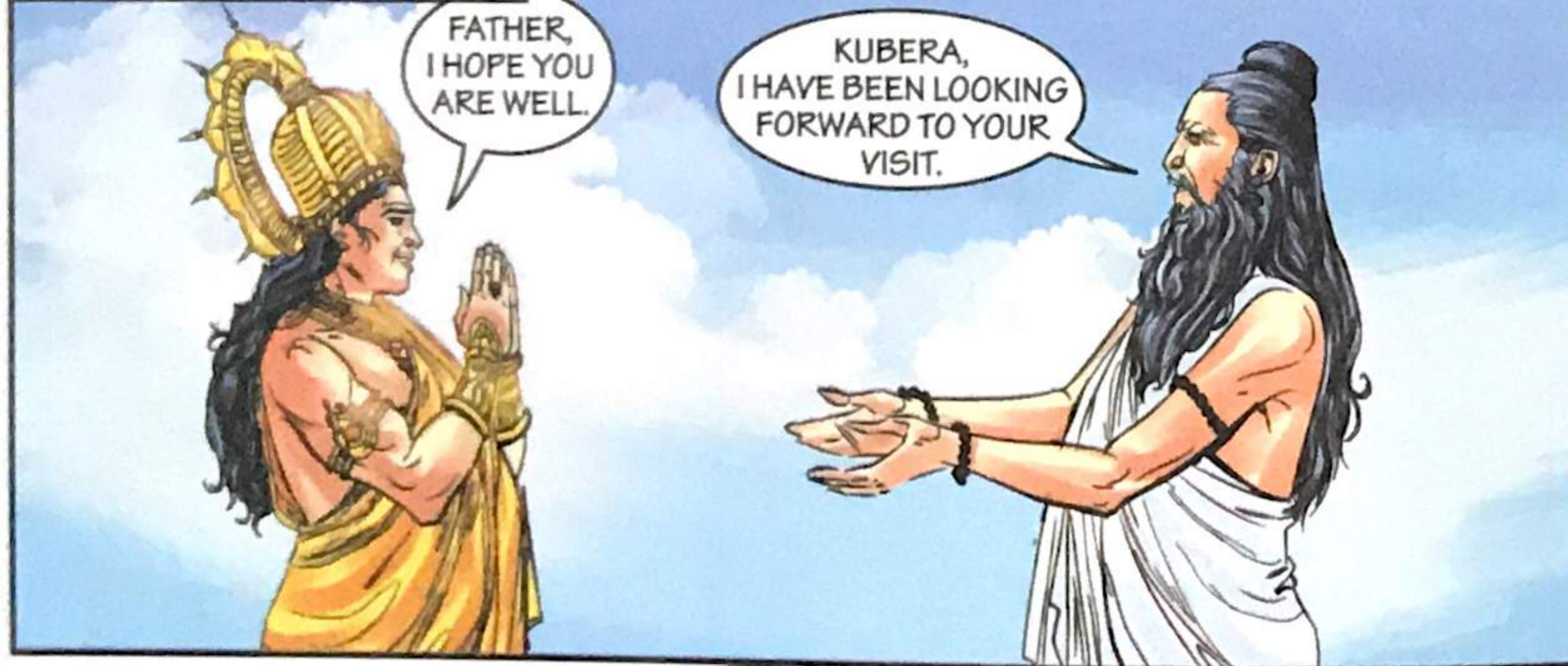
KUMBHAKARNA

* DASAGRIVA MEANS TEN-HEADED.

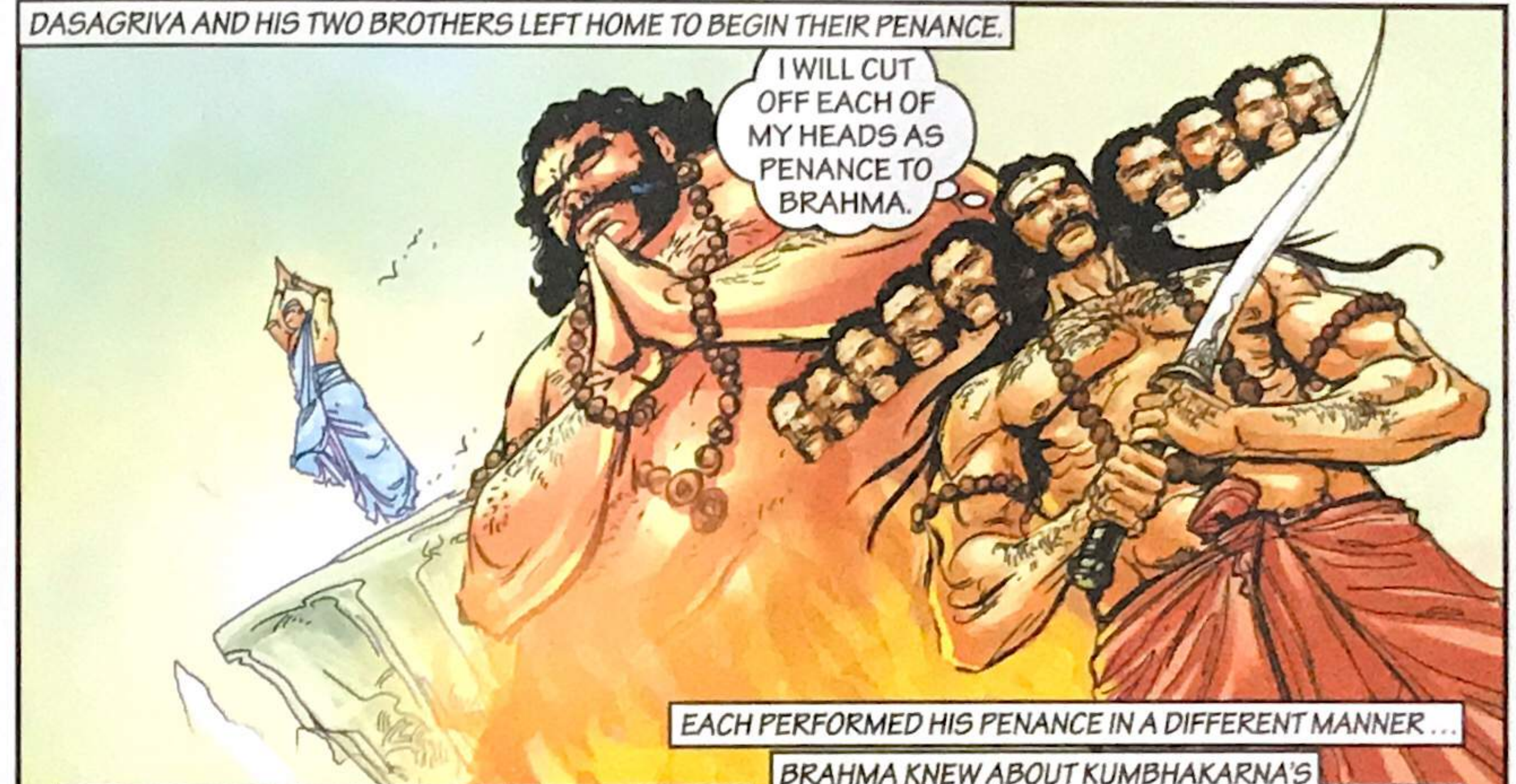
AS VISHRAVA HAD PREDICTED, DASAGRIVA, KUMBHAKARNA AND SURPANAKHA WERE FEARSOME, WHILE THE YOUNGEST, VIBHISHANA, WAS WISE AND PEACE-LOVING.



ONE DAY VISHRAVA HAD A VISITOR.



DASAGRIVA AND HIS TWO BROTHERS LEFT HOME TO BEGIN THEIR PENANCE.

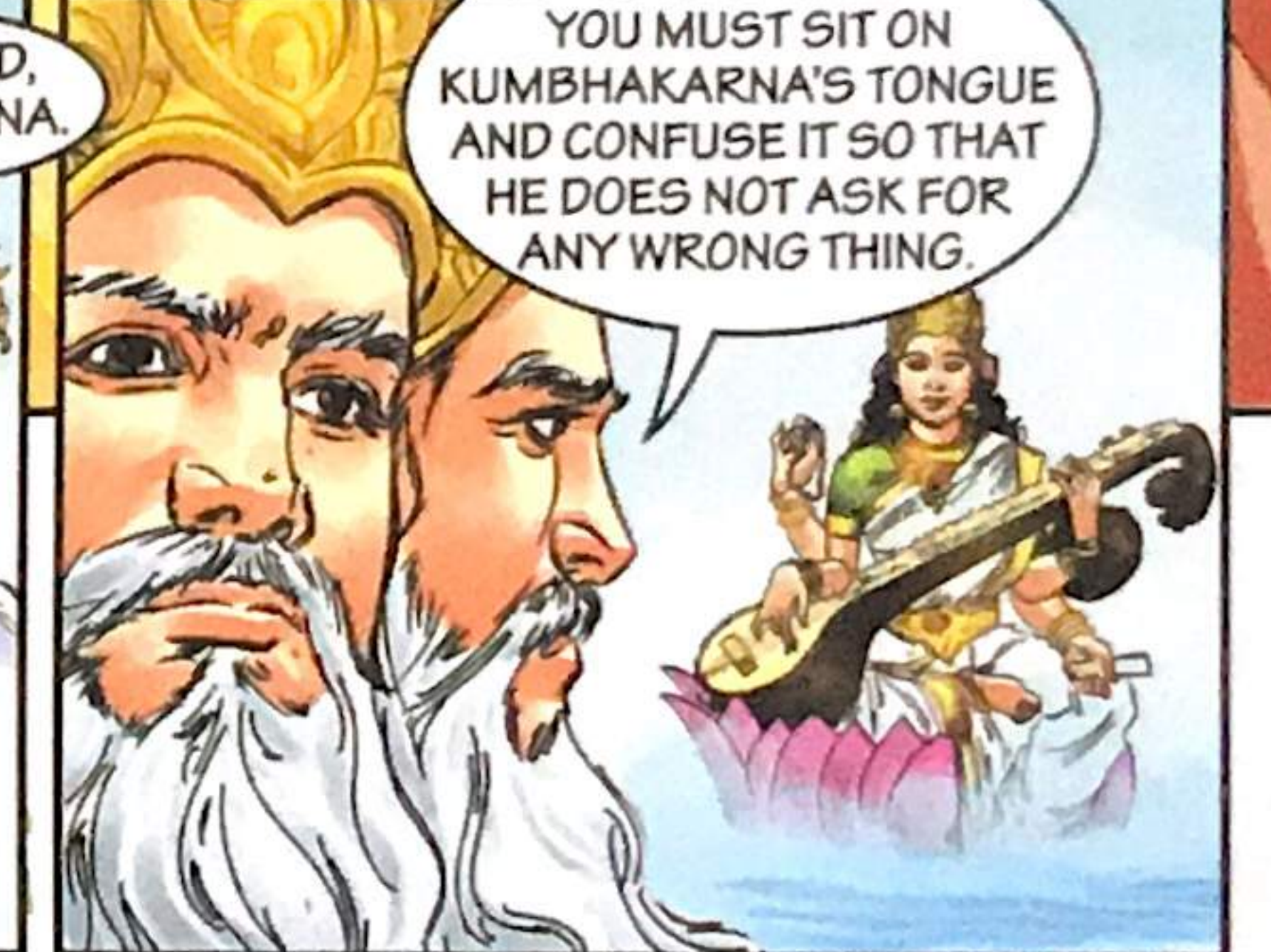


EACH PERFORMED HIS PENANCE IN A DIFFERENT MANNER...

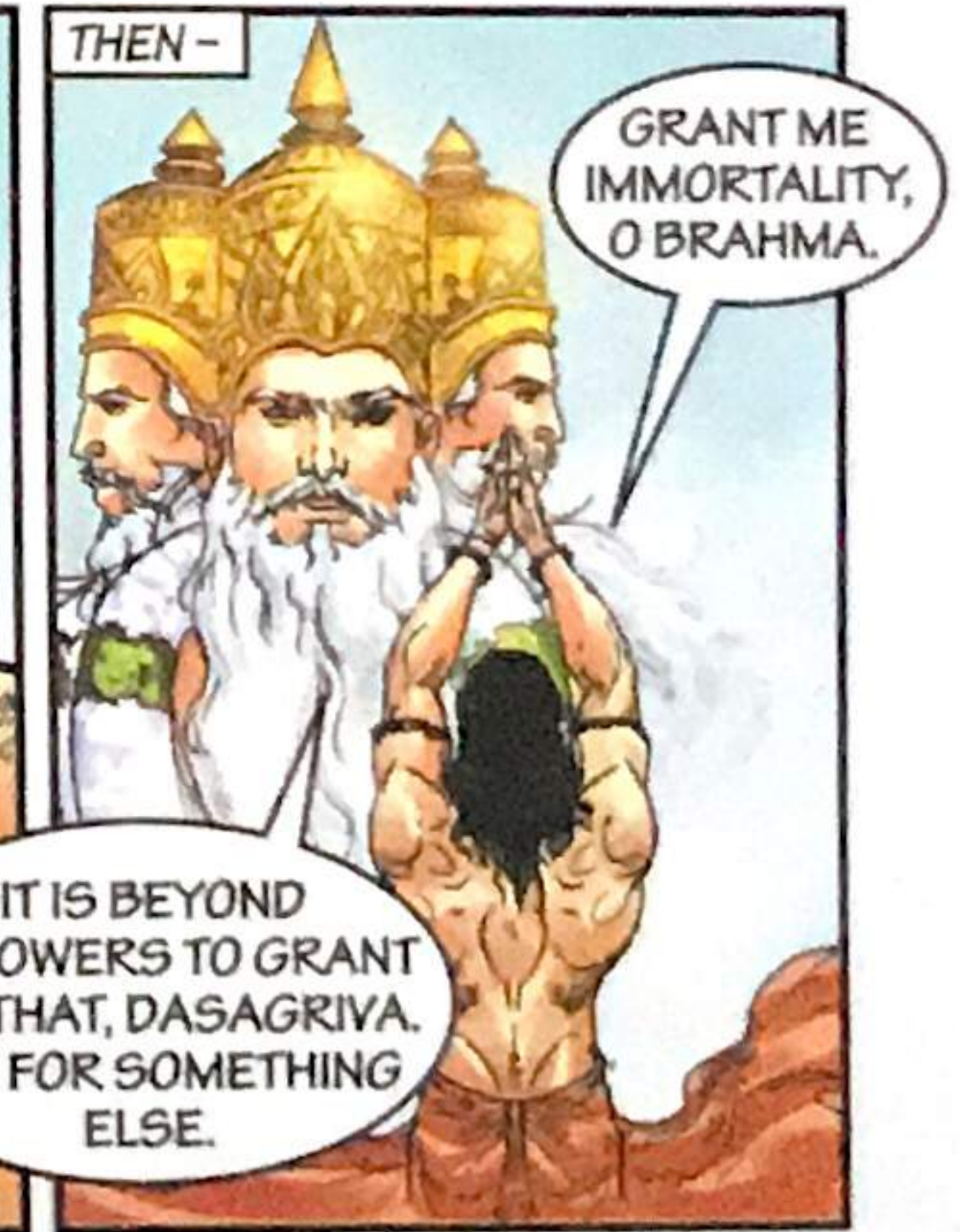
... AND ASKED BRAHMA FOR SPECIAL BOONS.



BRAHMA KNEW ABOUT KUMBHAKARNA'S CRUEL NATURE, SO -



SARASWATI DID SO AND -





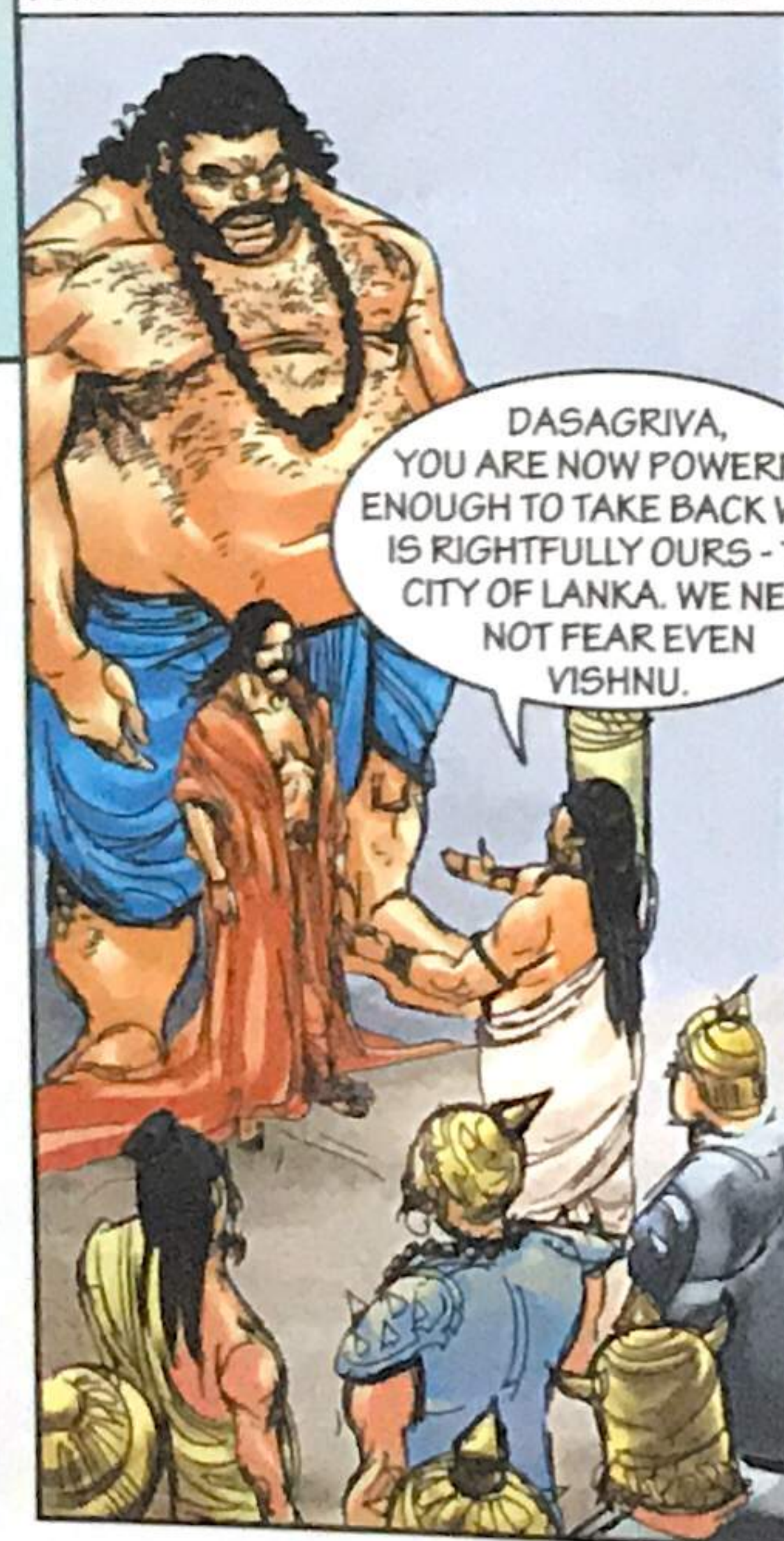
THEN MAKE ME INVINCIBLE AND A MASTER OF THE DARK ARTS. NO BEING OF ANY OF THE GREAT RACES OF HEAVEN AND EARTH - NAGA, YAKSHA, DANAVA, GANDHARVA, KINNARA, DAITYA, RAKSHASA, RISHI, DEVA OR WILD ANIMAL - SHOULD BE ABLE TO HARM ME.

WHAT ABOUT HUMANS?

HAI HUMANS ARE THE SCUM OF THE EARTH! I DON'T NEED ANY PROTECTION FROM THEM.

VERY WELL, THEN.

WHEN THE BROTHERS RETURNED HOME, THEY WERE GREETED BY THEIR GRANDFATHER SUMALI AND A HOST OF OTHER RAKSHASAS.

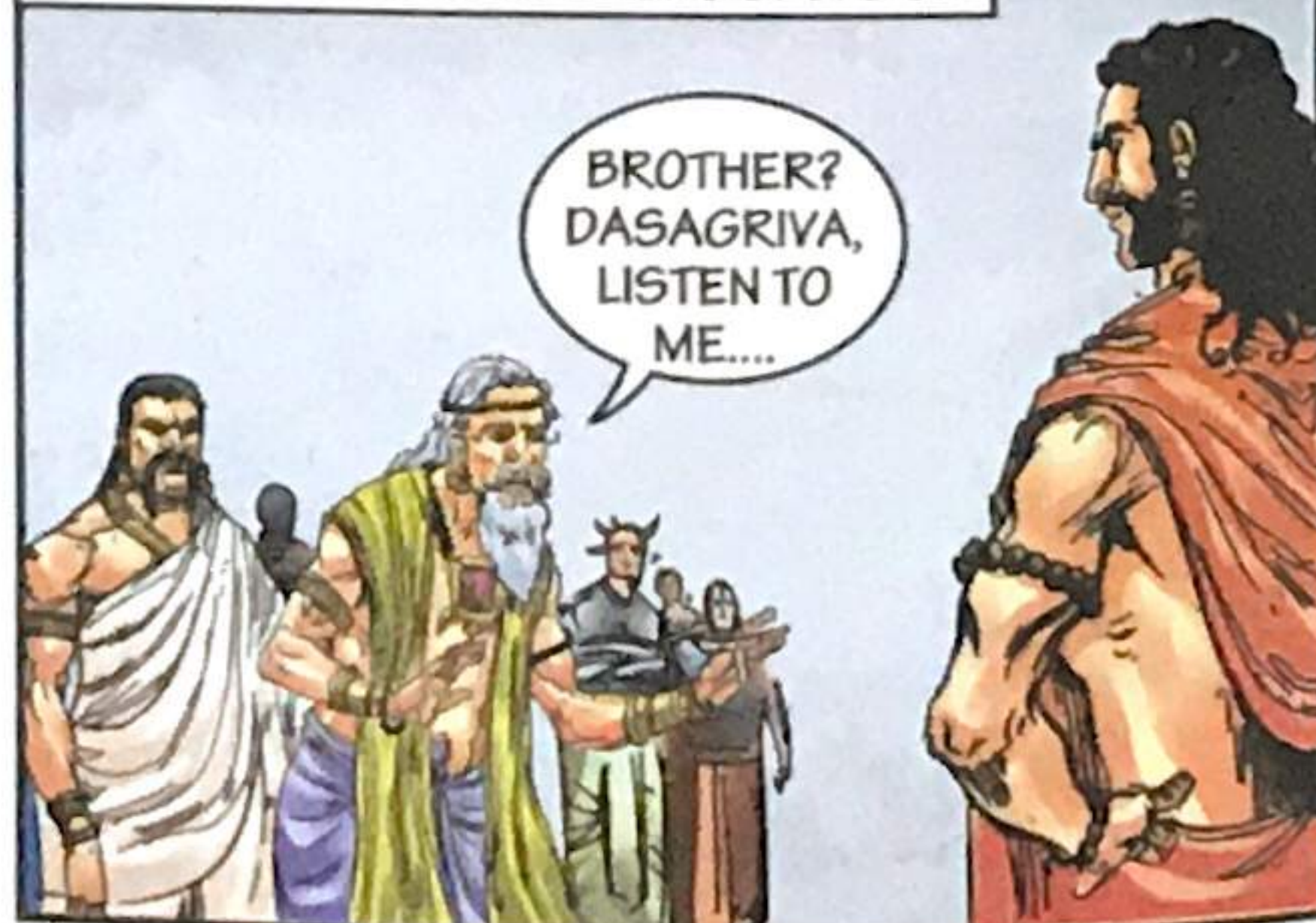


DASAGRIVA, YOU ARE NOW POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE BACK WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS - THE CITY OF LANKA. WE NEED NOT FEAR EVEN VISHNU.

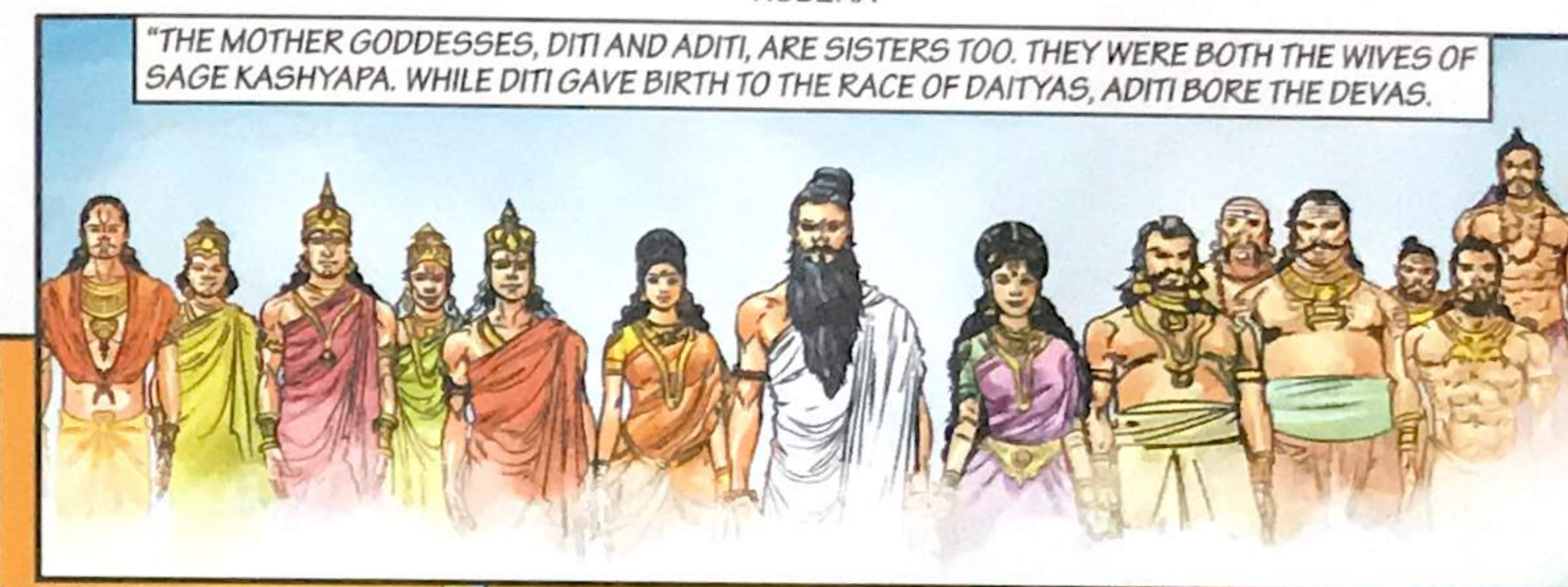
LANKA BELONGS TO KUBERA. HE IS MY BROTHER. HOW CAN I FIGHT HIM, GRANDFATHER?



ONE OF THE OTHER RAKSHASAS SPOKE UP.

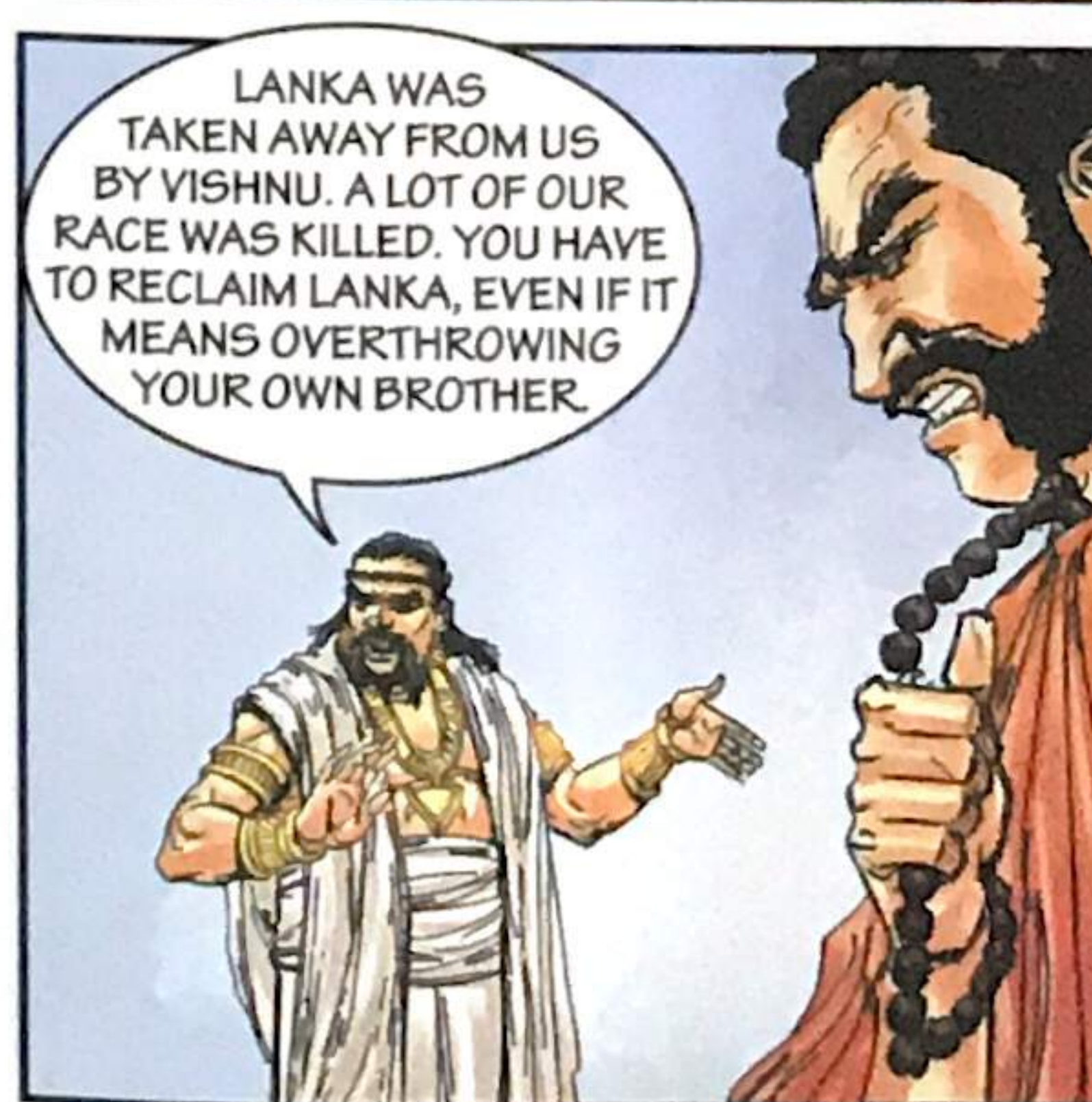


BROTHER? DASAGRIVA, LISTEN TO ME....

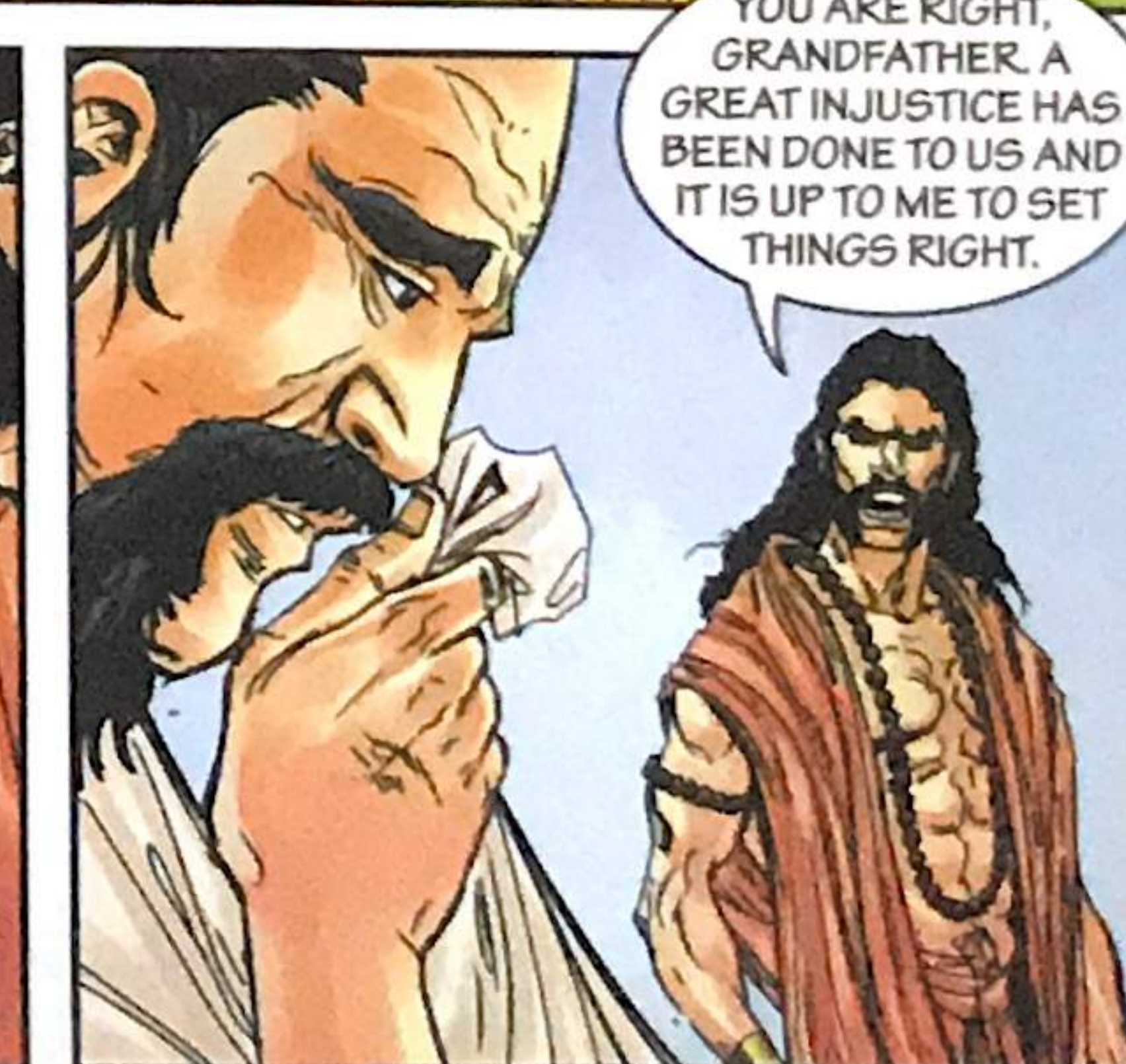


"THE MOTHER GODDESSES, DITI AND ADITI, ARE SISTERS TOO. THEY WERE BOTH THE WIVES OF SAGE KASHYAPA. WHILE DITI GAVE BIRTH TO THE RACE OF DAITYAS, ADITI BORE THE DEVAS.

"SINCE THE BEGINNING, THE TWO RACES HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER. ARE THEY NOT BROTHERS TOO?"

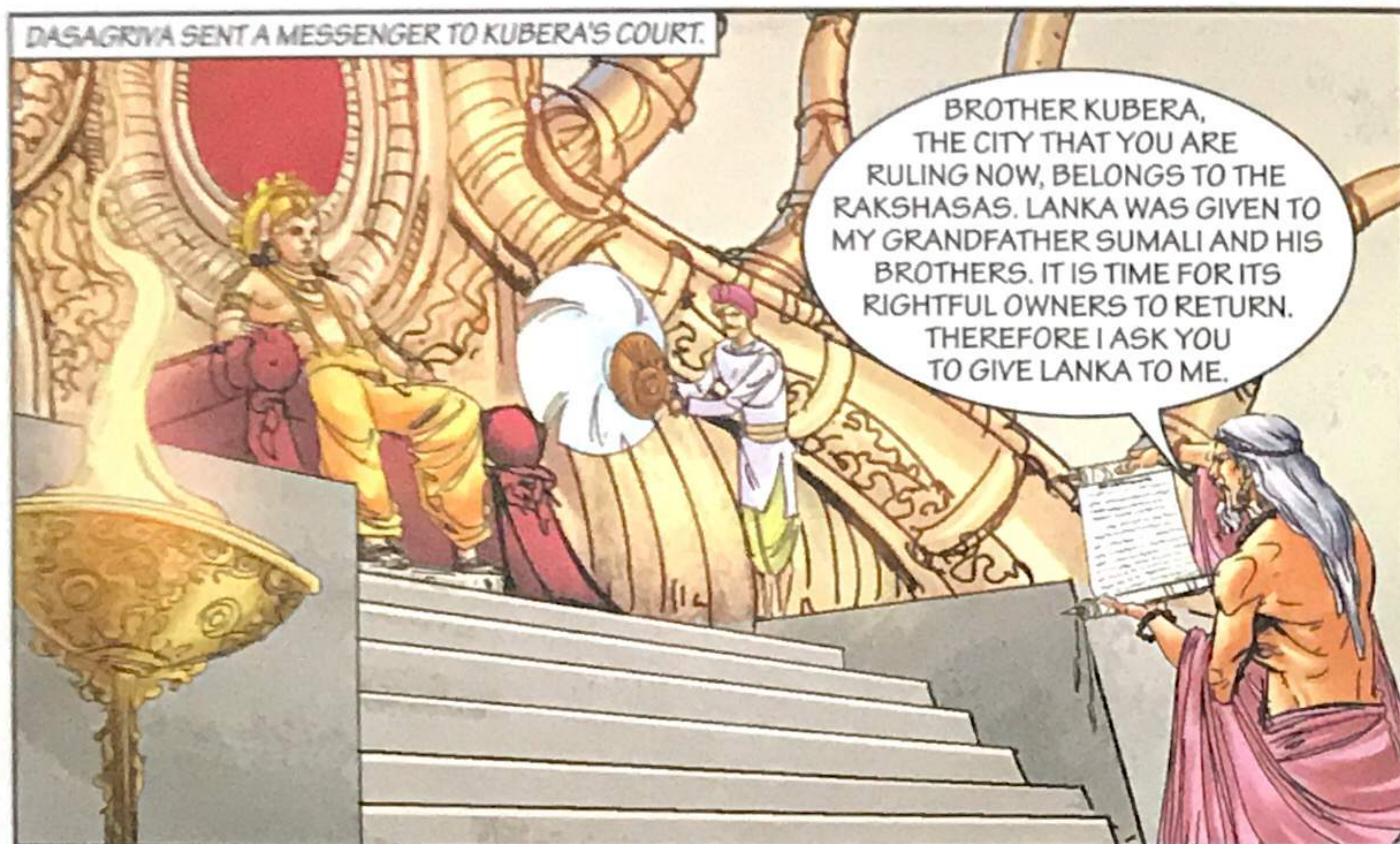


LANKA WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM US BY VISHNU. A LOT OF OUR RACE WAS KILLED. YOU HAVE TO RECLAIM LANKA, EVEN IF IT MEANS OVERTHROWING YOUR OWN BROTHER.



YOU ARE RIGHT, GRANDFATHER. A GREAT INJUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE TO US AND IT IS UP TO ME TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

DASAGRIVA SENT A MESSENGER TO KUBERA'S COURT.



BROTHER KUBERA, THE CITY THAT YOU ARE RULING NOW, BELONGS TO THE RAKSHASAS. LANKA WAS GIVEN TO MY GRANDFATHER SUMALI AND HIS BROTHERS. IT IS TIME FOR ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS TO RETURN. THEREFORE I ASK YOU TO GIVE LANKA TO ME.



DASAGRIVA IS WELCOME TO SHARE MY KINGDOM. HE IS MY BROTHER. I CANNOT REFUSE TO GIVE HIM WHAT HE HAS ASKED FOR.

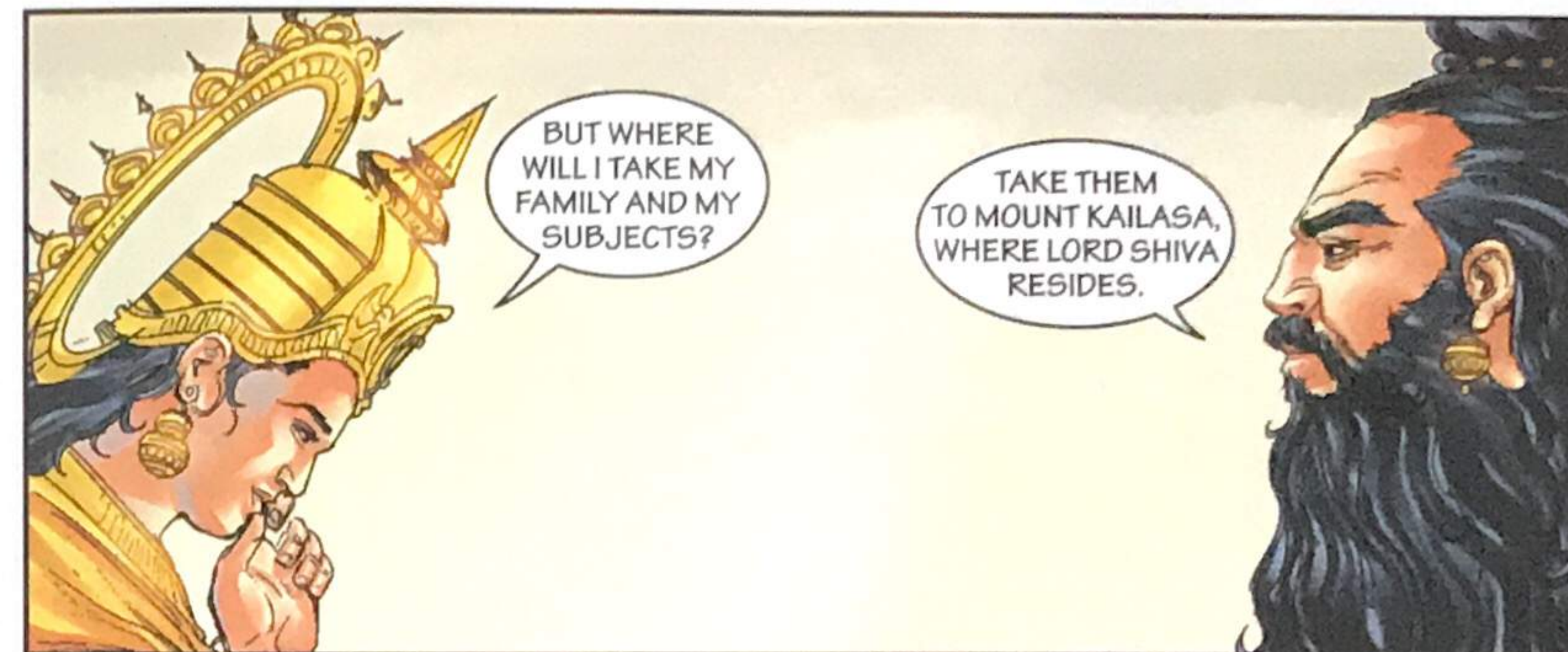
LATER -

DASAGRIVA IS NOT GOING TO BE SATISFIED WITH JUST SHARING LANKA. I SHOULD GO TO MY FATHER. HE IS SURE TO KNOW DASAGRIVA'S MIND.



VISHRAVA DID.

DASAGRIVA HAS RECEIVED BOONS FROM BRAHMA. THE EXTENT OF HIS POWER IS UNFATHOMABLE. HE WILL DESTROY ANYTHING THAT STANDS IN HIS WAY. YOU MUST LEAVE LANKA.



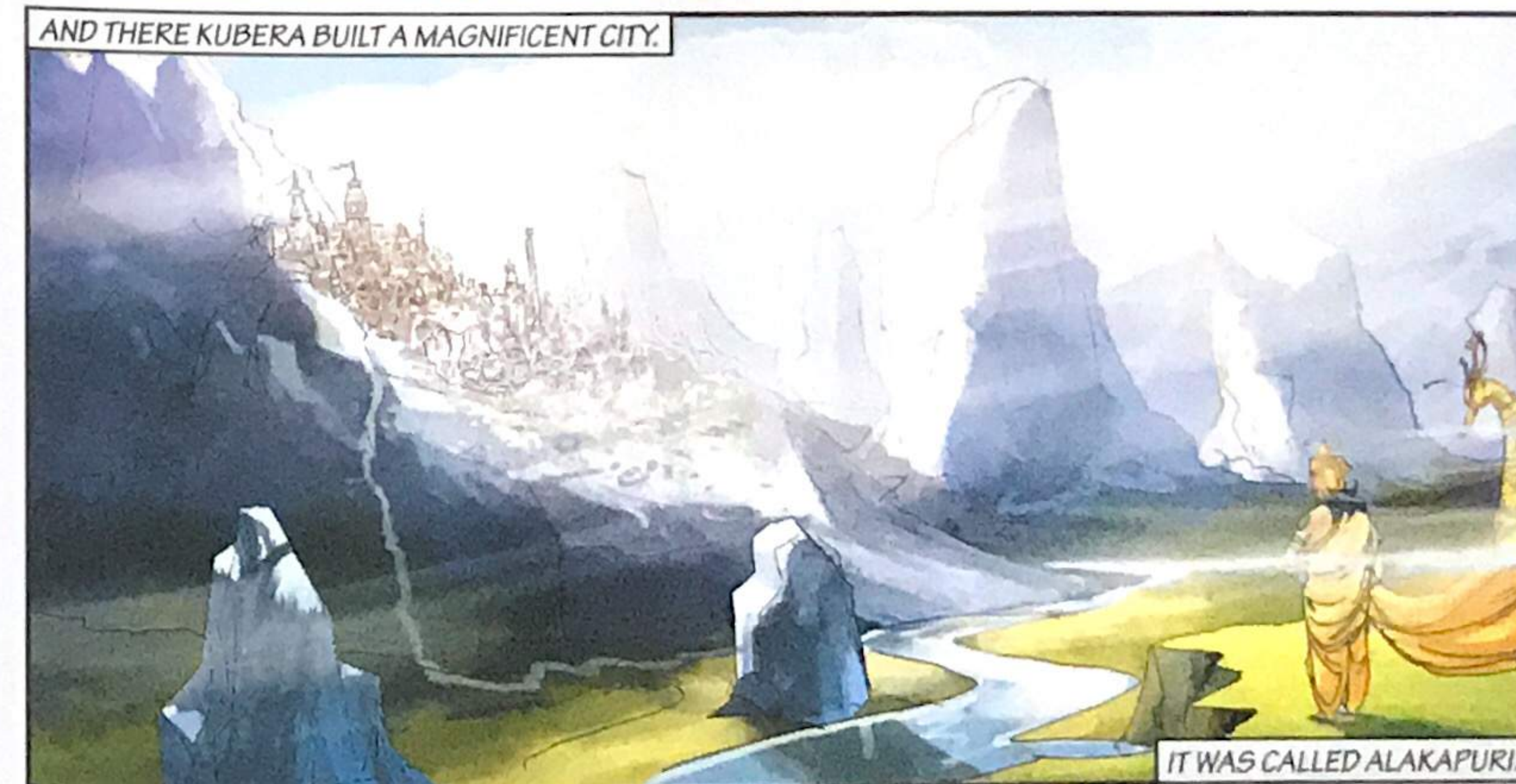
BUT WHERE WILL I TAKE MY FAMILY AND MY SUBJECTS?

TAKE THEM TO MOUNT KAILASA, WHERE LORD SHIVA RESIDES.



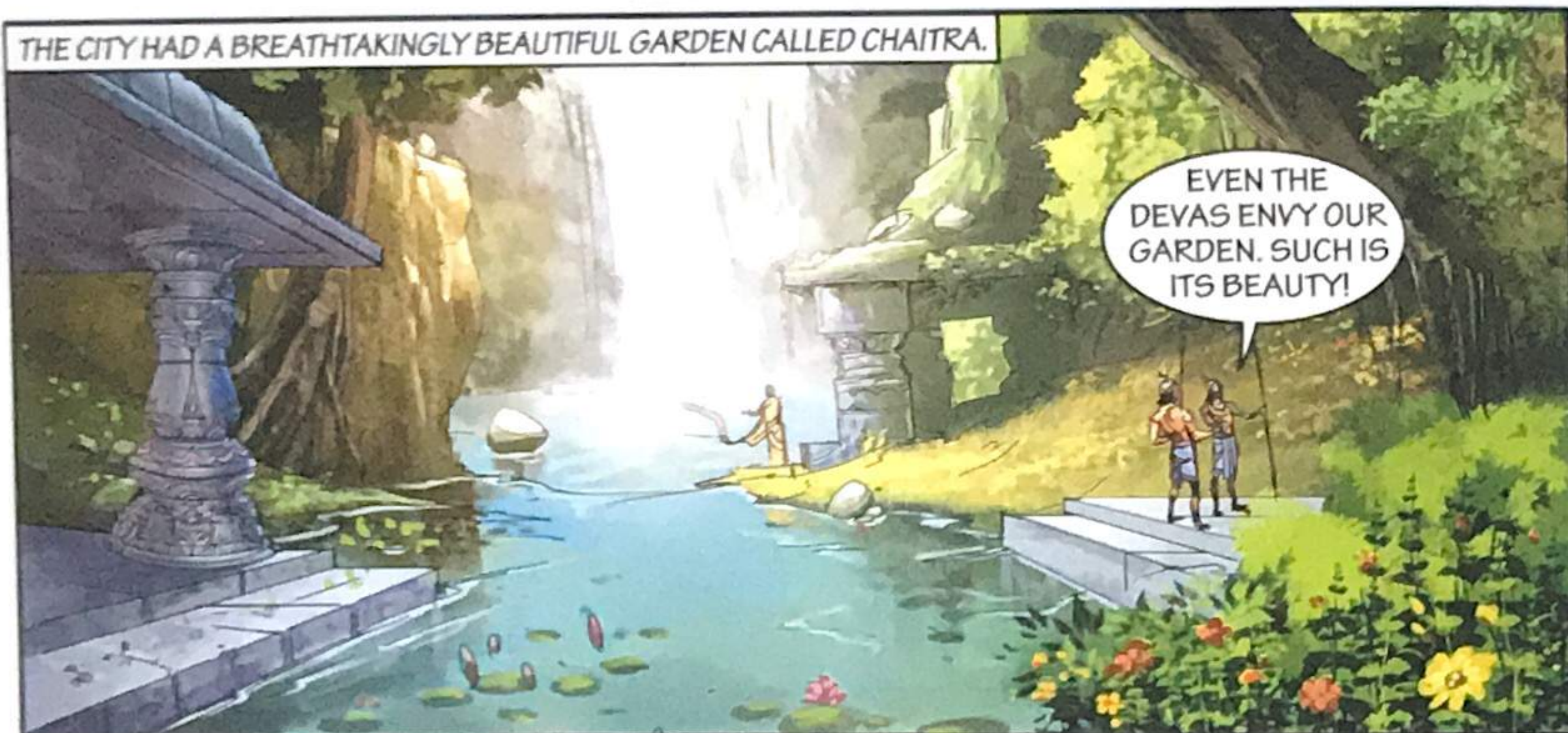
WHAT A WONDROUS PLACE KAILASA IS!

AND THERE KUBERA BUILT A MAGNIFICENT CITY.



IT WAS CALLED ALAKAPURI.

THE CITY HAD A BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL GARDEN CALLED CHAITRA.



EVEN THE DEVAS ENVY OUR GARDEN. SUCH IS ITS BEAUTY!

KUBERA CONTINUED HIS REIGN AS LOKPALA FROM ALAKA AND RESUMED HIS TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD.



I HOPE DASAGRIVA WILL LEAVE ME IN PEACE NOW.

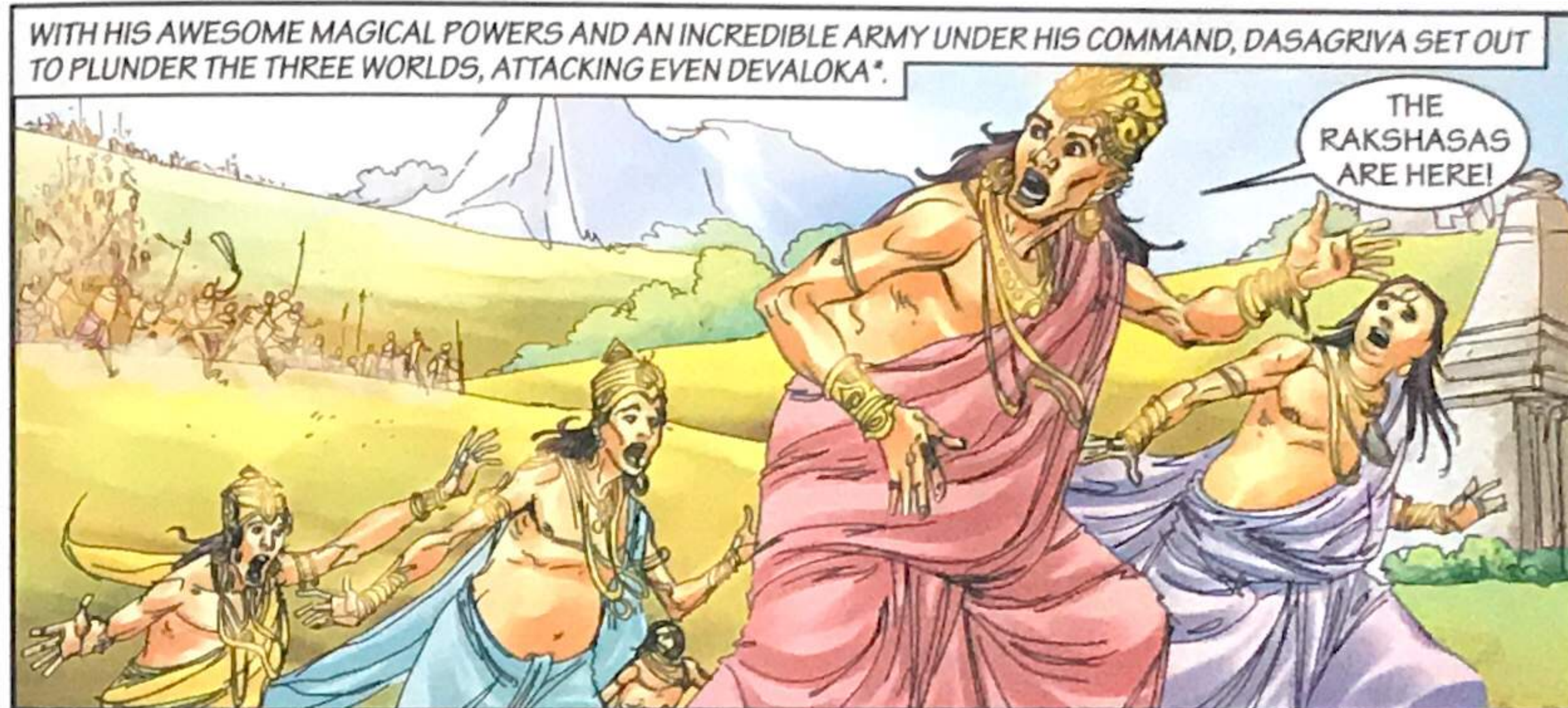
AFTER THEIR LONG WAIT, THE RAKSHASAS EMERGED FROM PATALA...



HAIL DASAGRIVA!

... ACCEPTING DASAGRIVA AS THEIR SOVEREIGN.

WITH HIS AWESOME MAGICAL POWERS AND AN INCREDIBLE ARMY UNDER HIS COMMAND, DASAGRIVA SET OUT TO PLUNDER THE THREE WORLDS, ATTACKING EVEN DEVALOKA*.



THE RAKSHASAS ARE HERE!

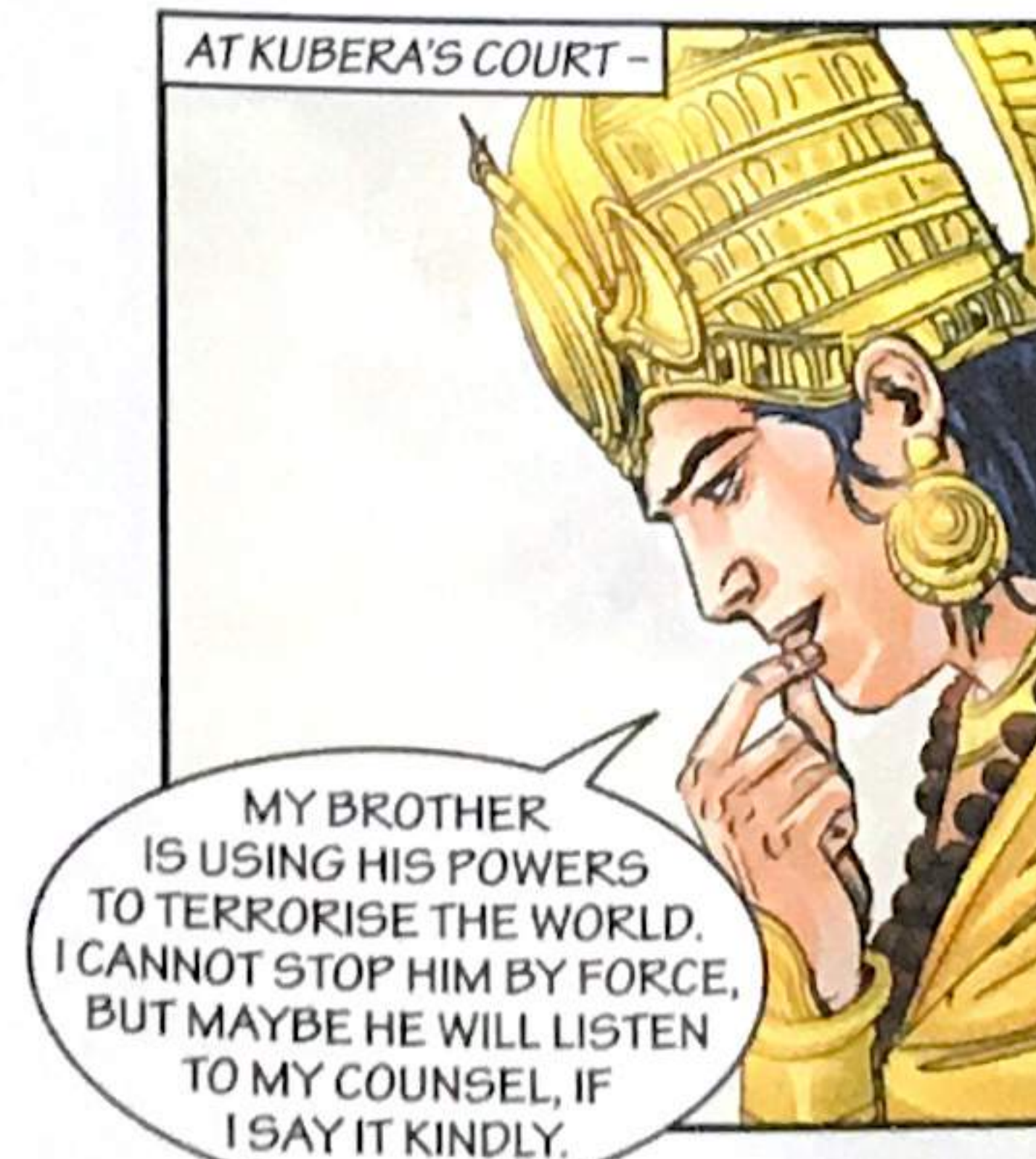
INDRA, THE KING OF GODS, DID NOT STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM.



DASAGRIVA, YOU CAN TAKE AWAY ALL MY TREASURES, JUST LEAVE MY PEOPLE ALONE.

SEIZE ALL THE WEALTH YOU CAN FIND. LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND.

AT KUBERA'S COURT -



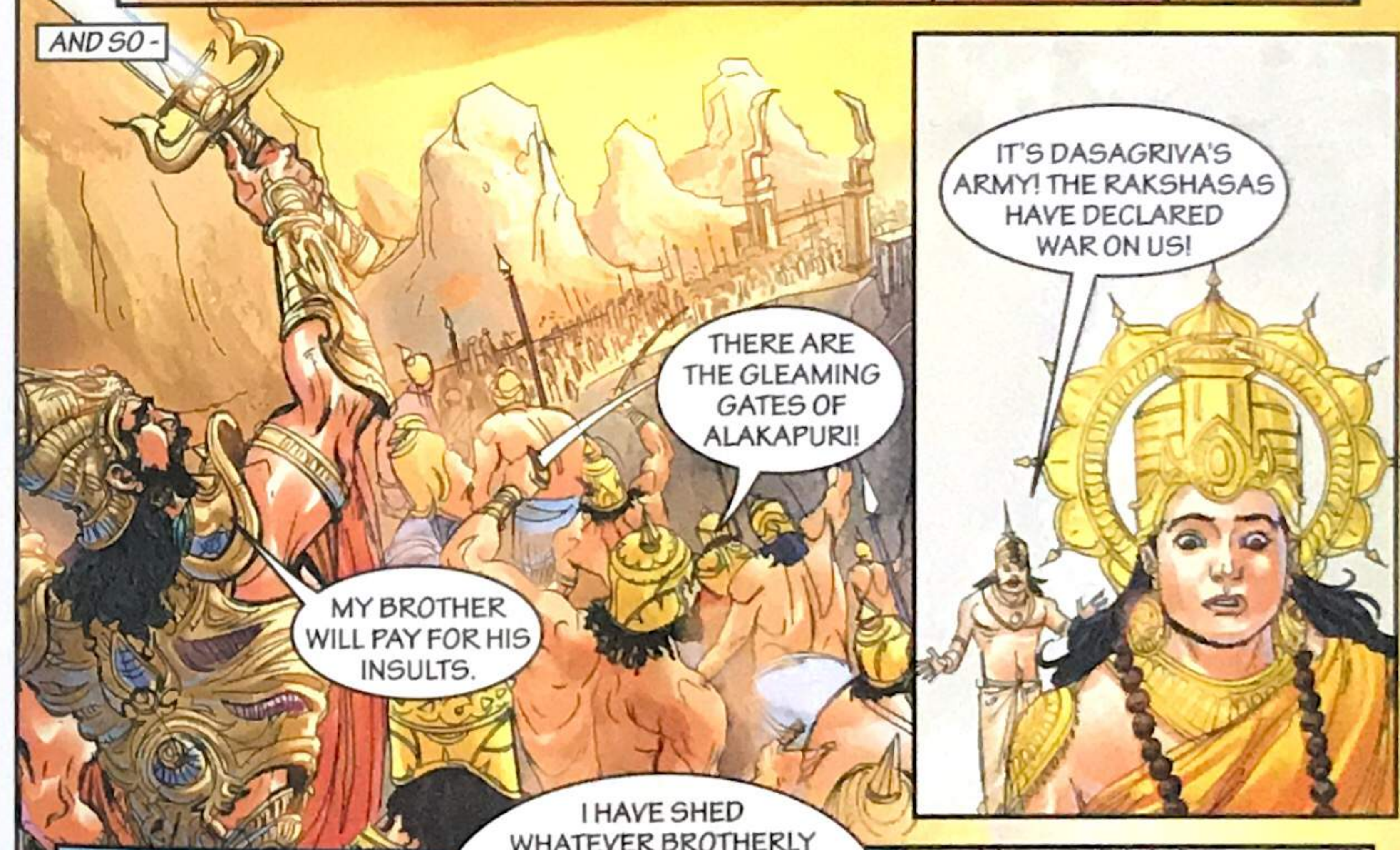
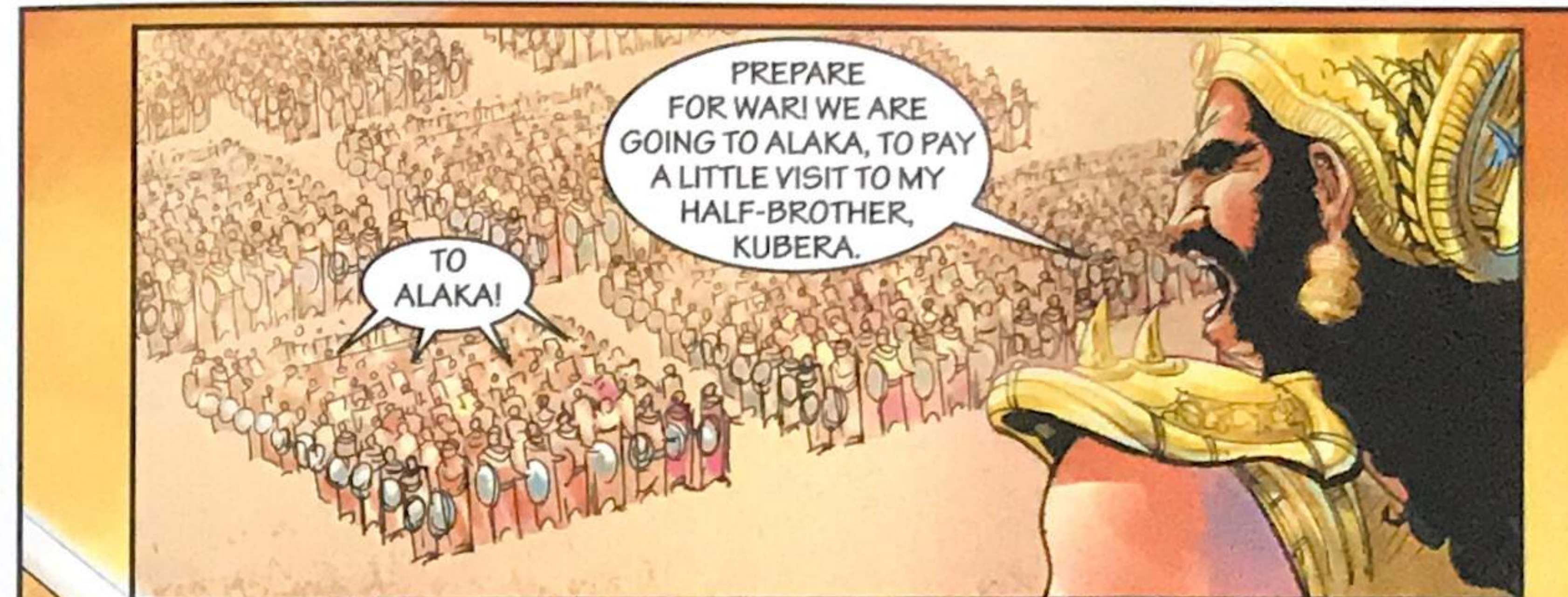
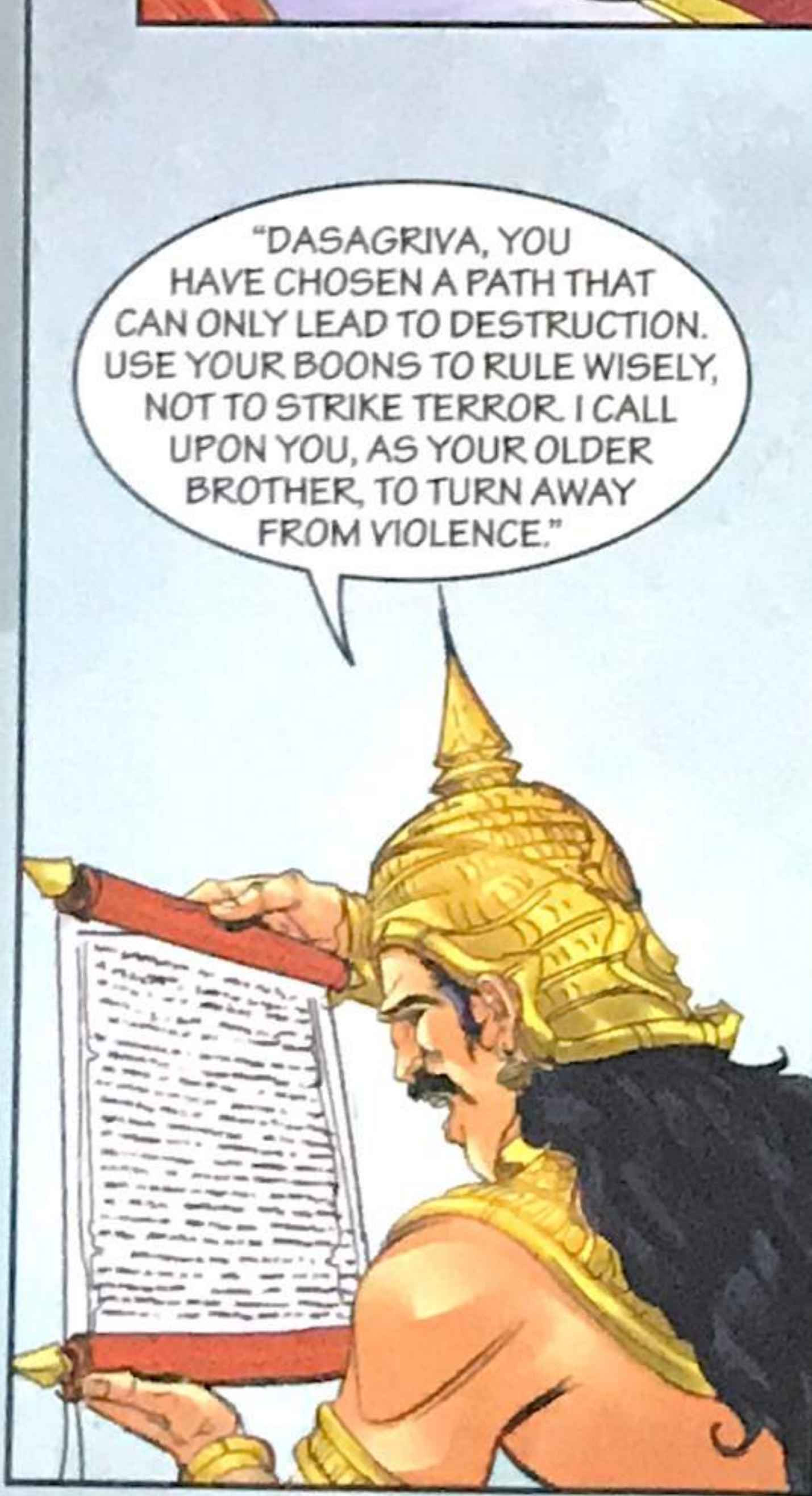
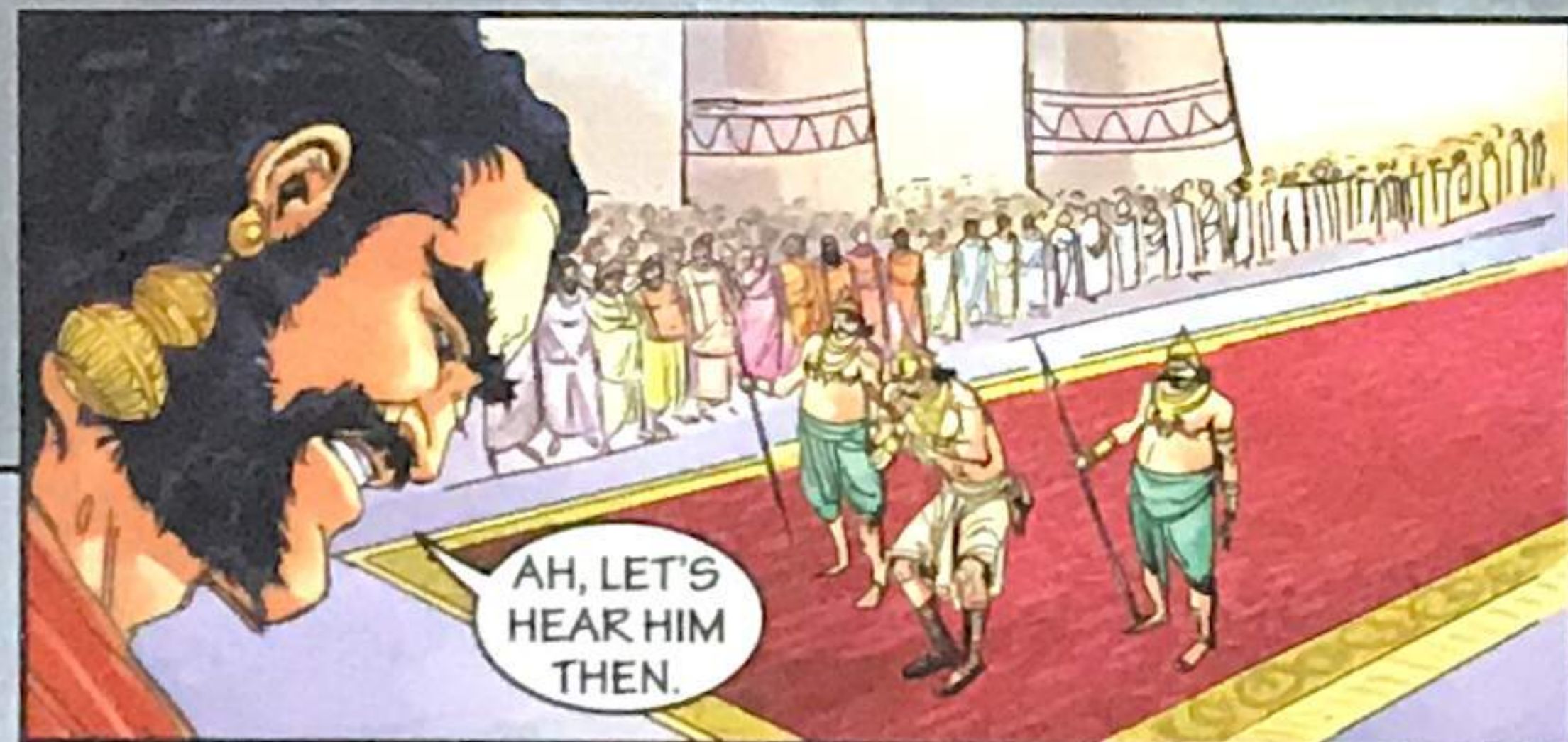
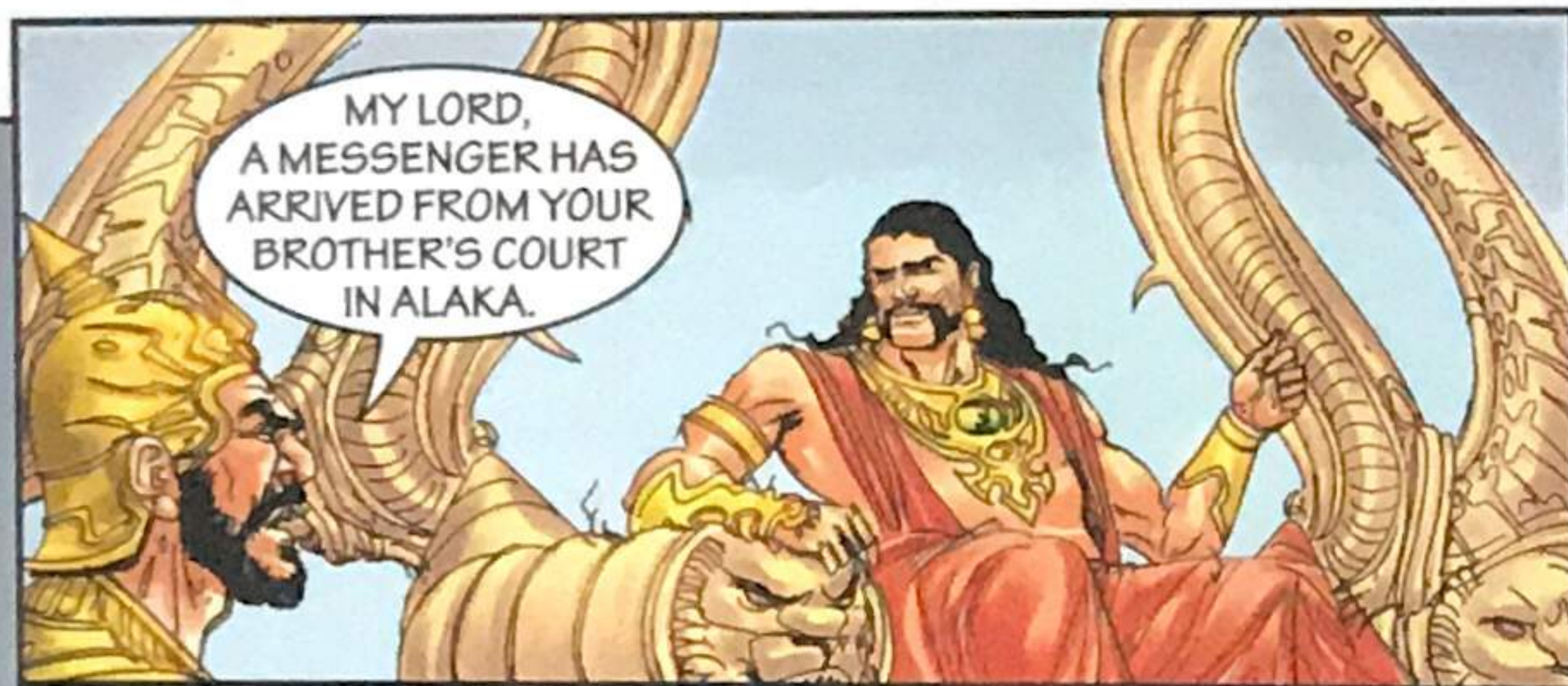
MY BROTHER IS USING HIS POWERS TO TERRORISE THE WORLD. I CANNOT STOP HIM BY FORCE, BUT MAYBE HE WILL LISTEN TO MY COUNSEL, IF I SAY IT KINDLY.

* HOME OF THE GODS

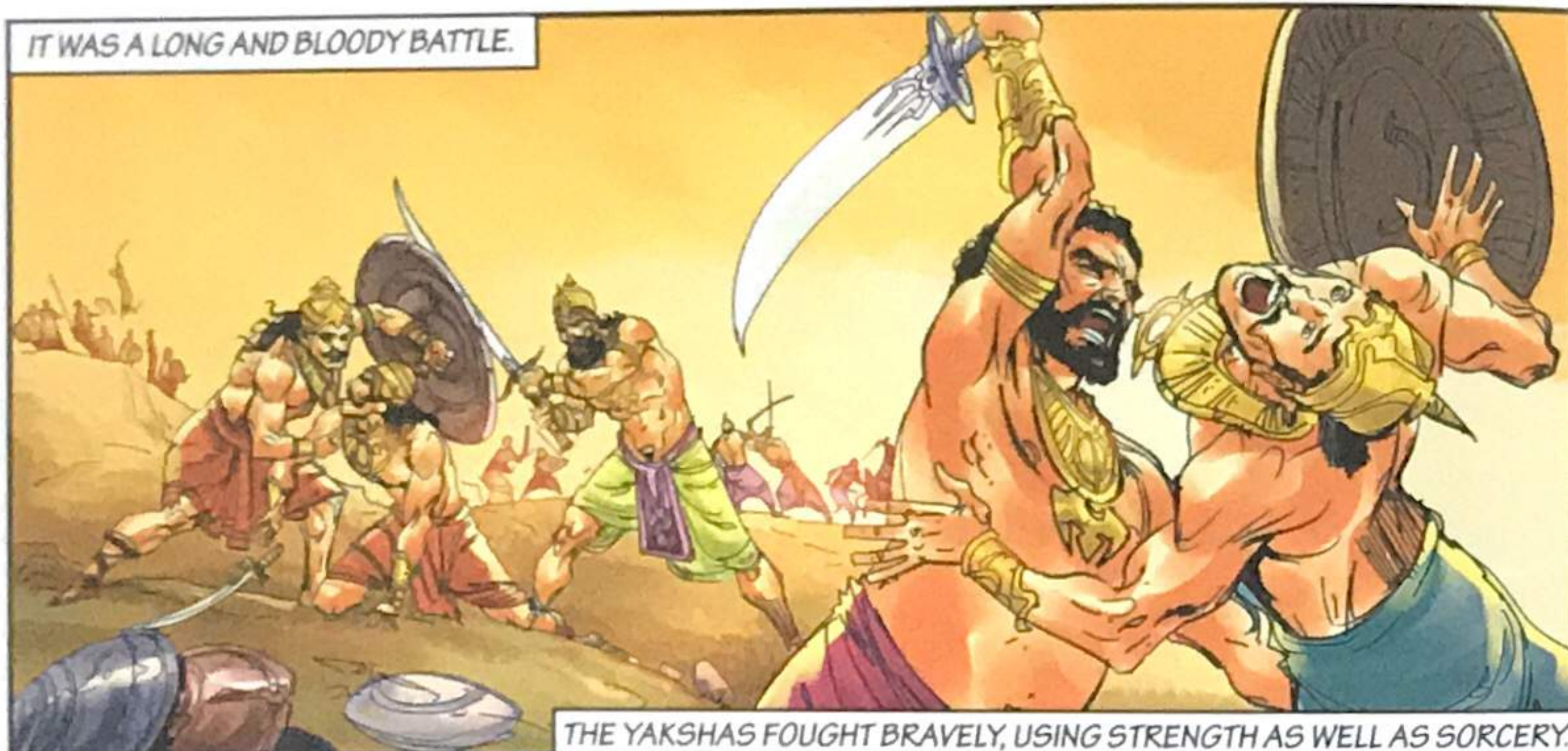


DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO DASAGRIVA, THE KING OF LANKA.

VERY WELL, MY LORD.



IT WAS A LONG AND BLOODY BATTLE.



THE YAKSHAS FOUGHT BRAVELY, USING STRENGTH AS WELL AS SORCERY.

BUT THE RAKSHASA ARMY WAS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THEM AND IT WAS DASAGRIVA HIMSELF WHO INFLICTED THE MOST DAMAGE ON THE YAKSHA FORCE.



I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH. MY LORD, LET ME STEP INTO THE BATTLEFIELD. I WILL SEVER THAT DEMON KING'S HEAD FROM THE REST OF HIS BODY AND BRING IT TO YOU.



IT WAS MANIBHADRA, KUBERA'S FAITHFUL MINISTER.

MANIBHADRA BROUGHT DOWN MULTITUDES OF RAKSHASAS SINGLE-HANDEDLY. BUT FINALLY...



... HE TOO FELL BEFORE DASAGRIVA.

THAT WAS WHEN KUBERA DECIDED TO TAKE MATTERS IN HIS OWN HANDS.

YOU ARE A FOOL IF YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH YOUR CRIMES. YOU WILL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THEM TOO, DASAGRIVA.

SAVE YOUR BREATH, KUBERA. COME, FIGHT ME.



THE FIGHT BEGAN.

THE LORD OF WEALTH THREW AN AGNEYASTRA* AT DASAGRIVA.



I WARNED YOU, DASAGRIVA.

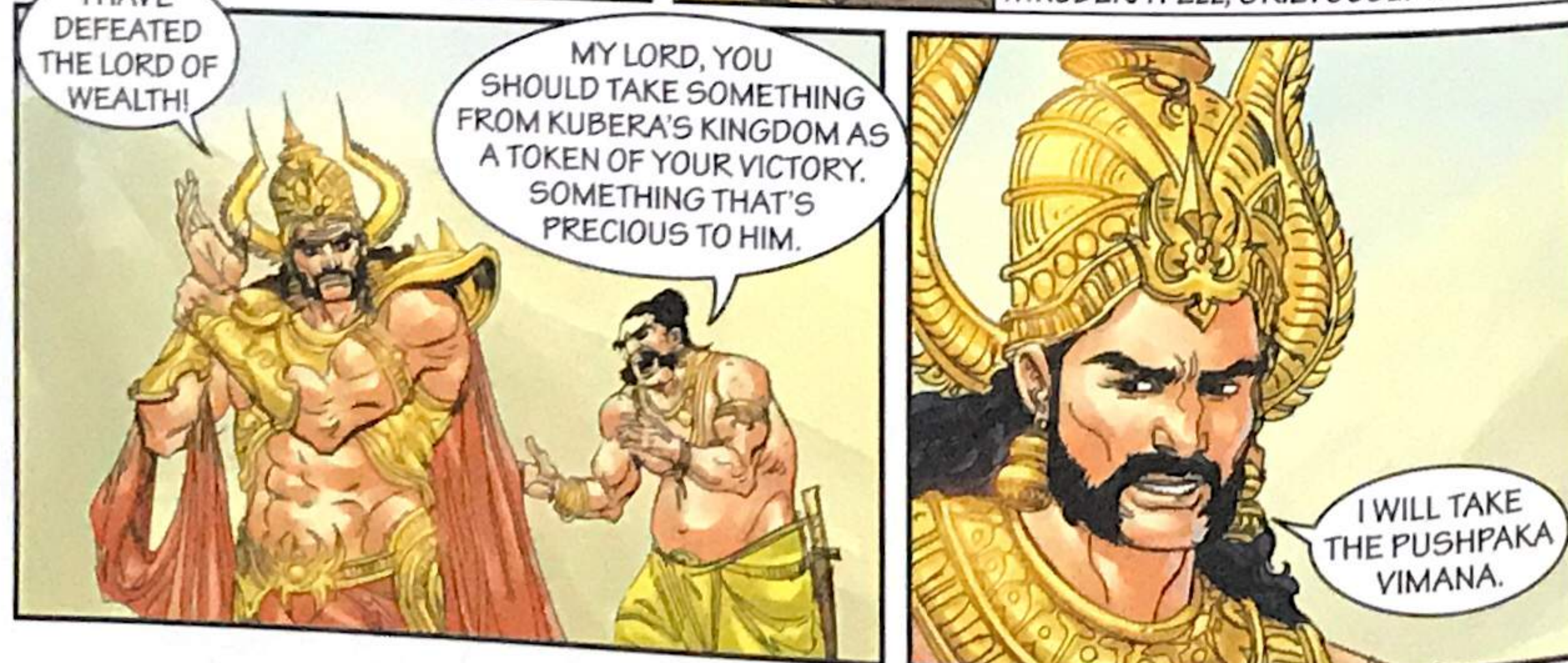
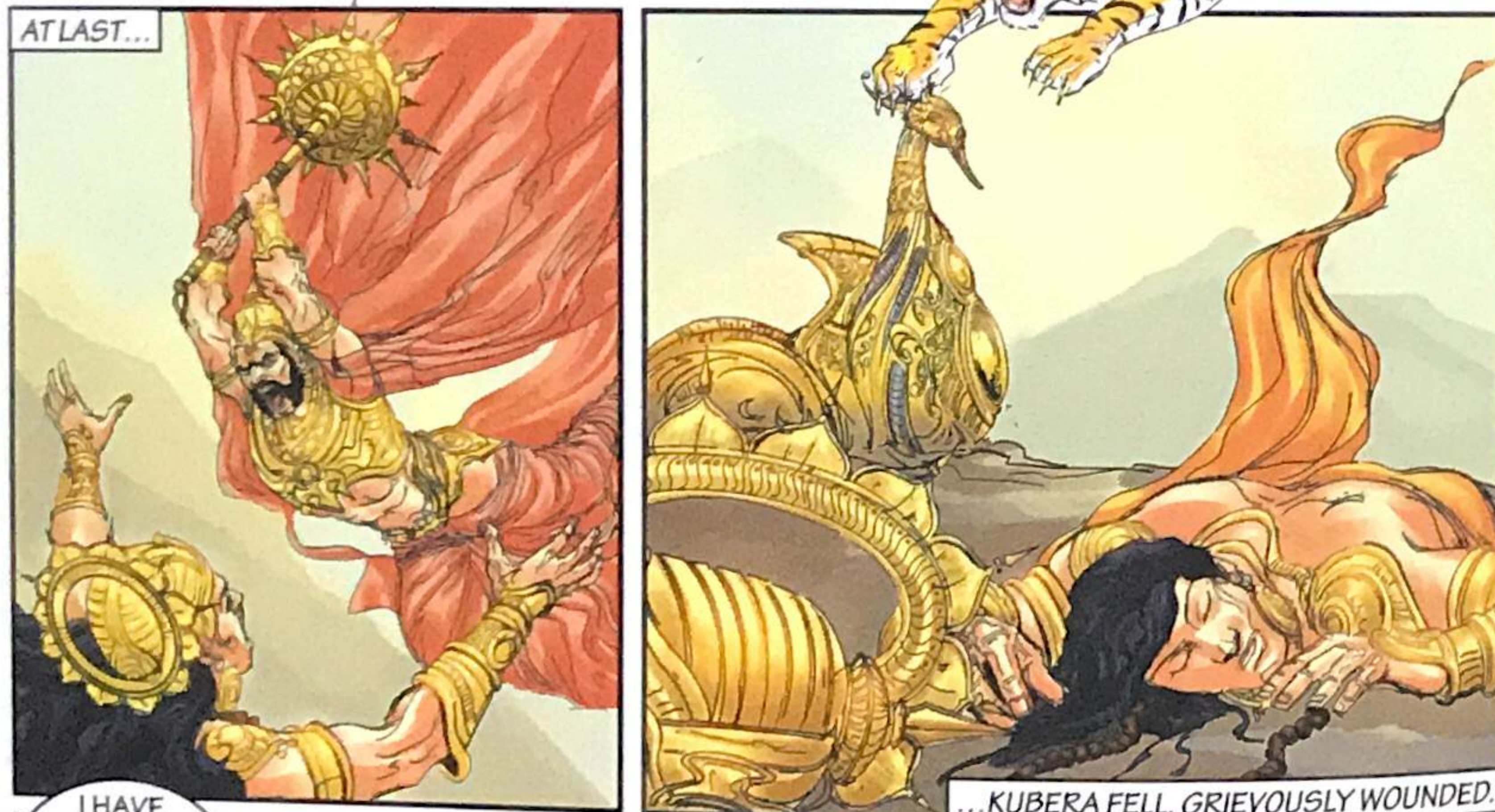
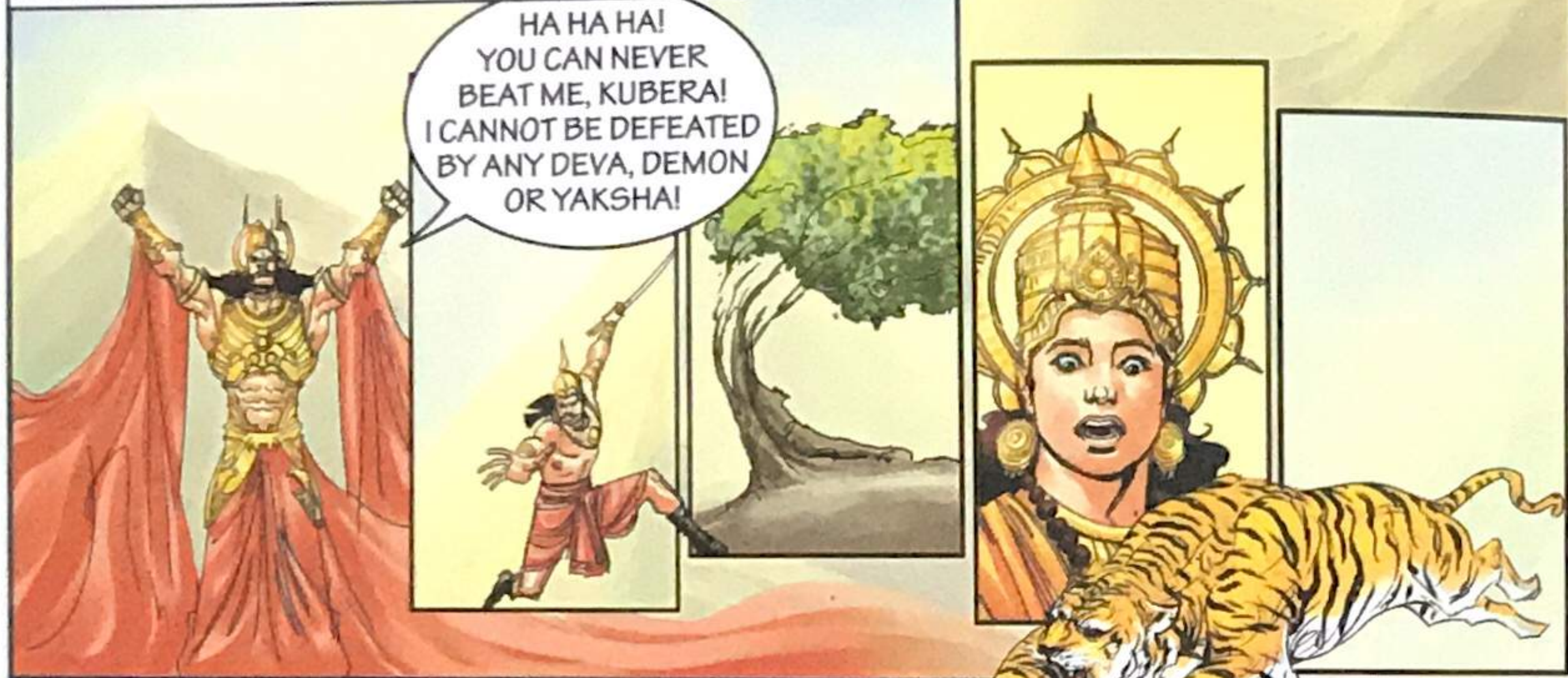
THE RAKSHASA KING RETALIATED WITH A VARUNA STRA^.



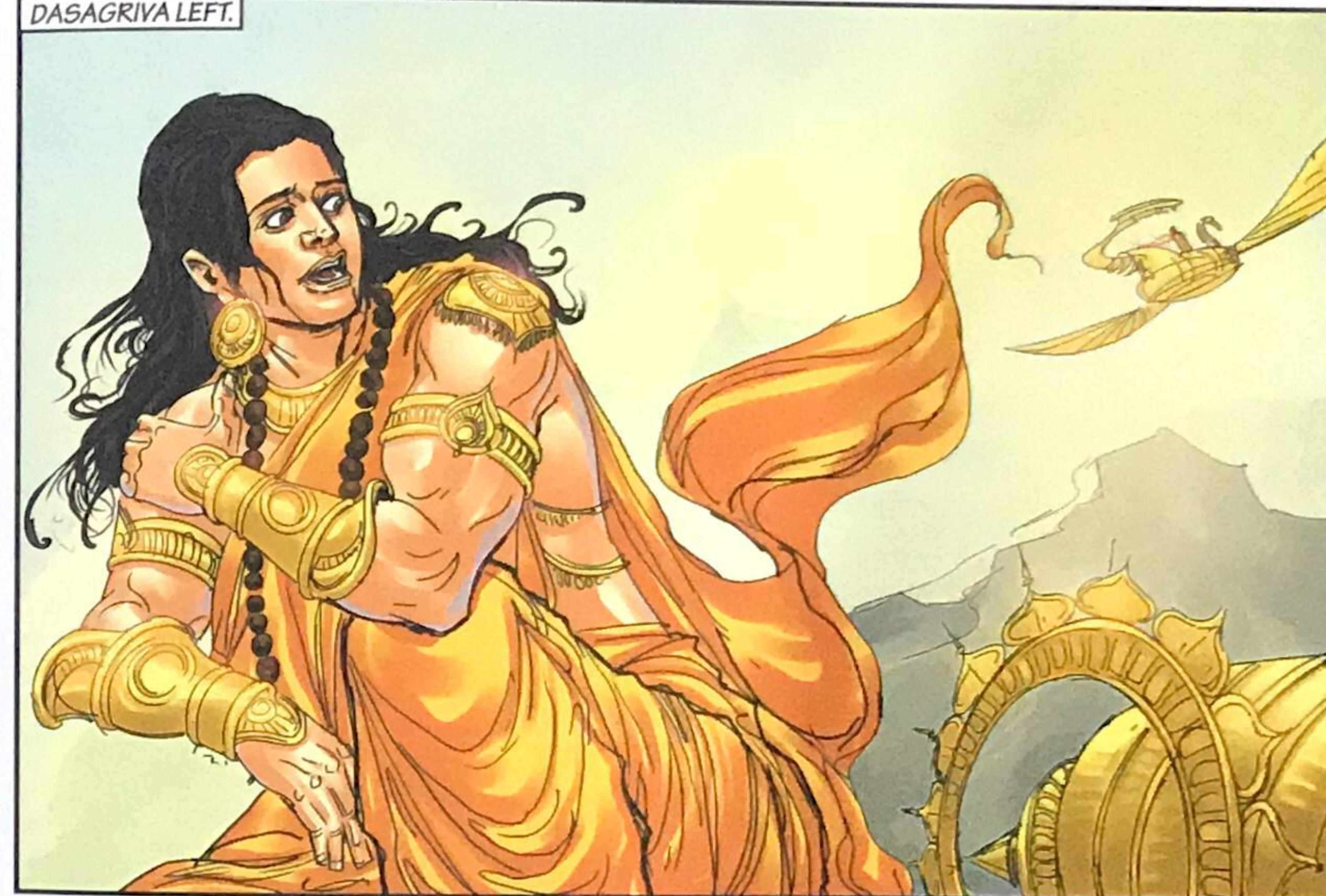
HE IS NOT AS WEAK AS I THOUGHT.

*A WEAPON OF FIRE
^A WEAPON OF WATER

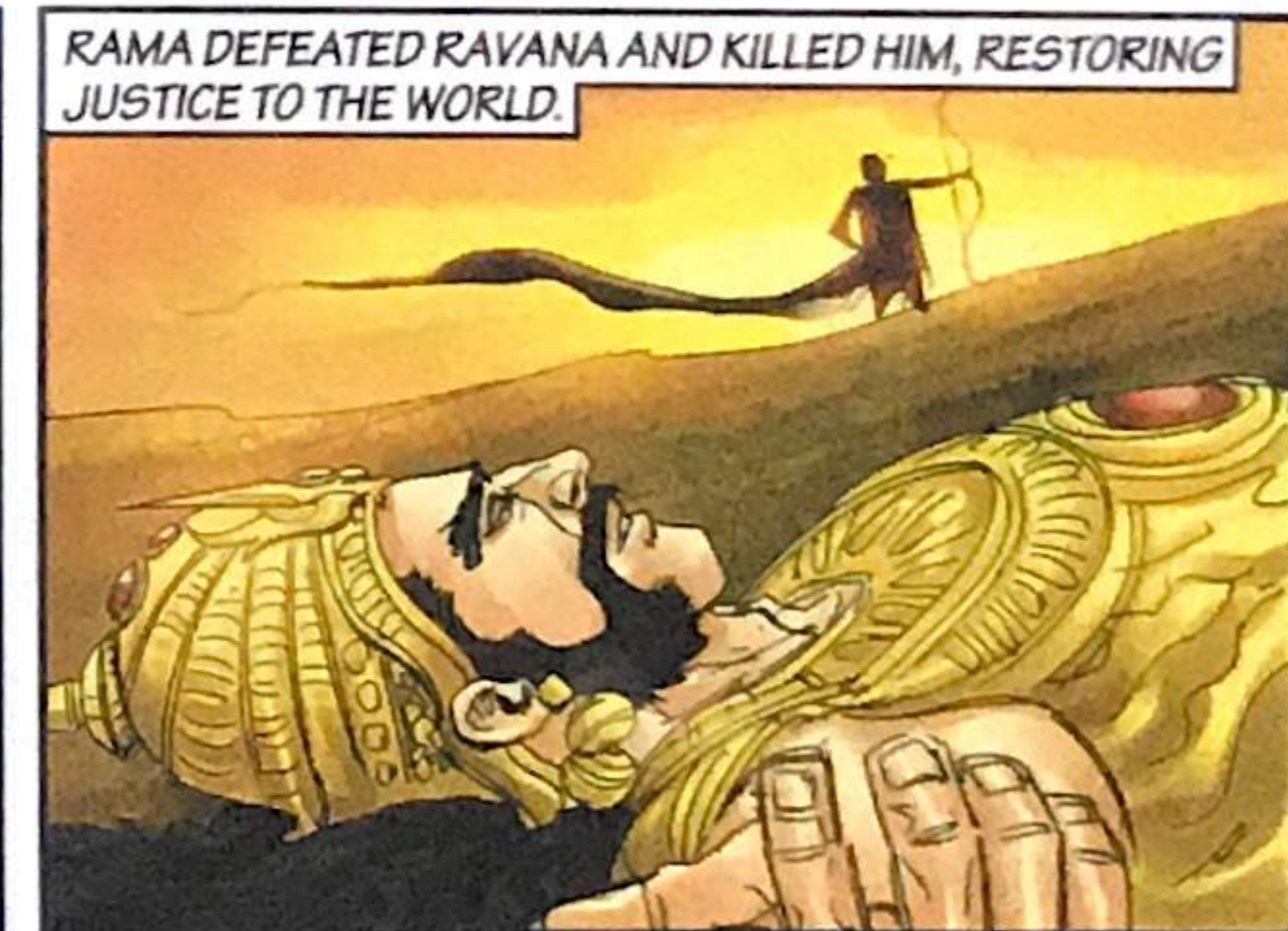
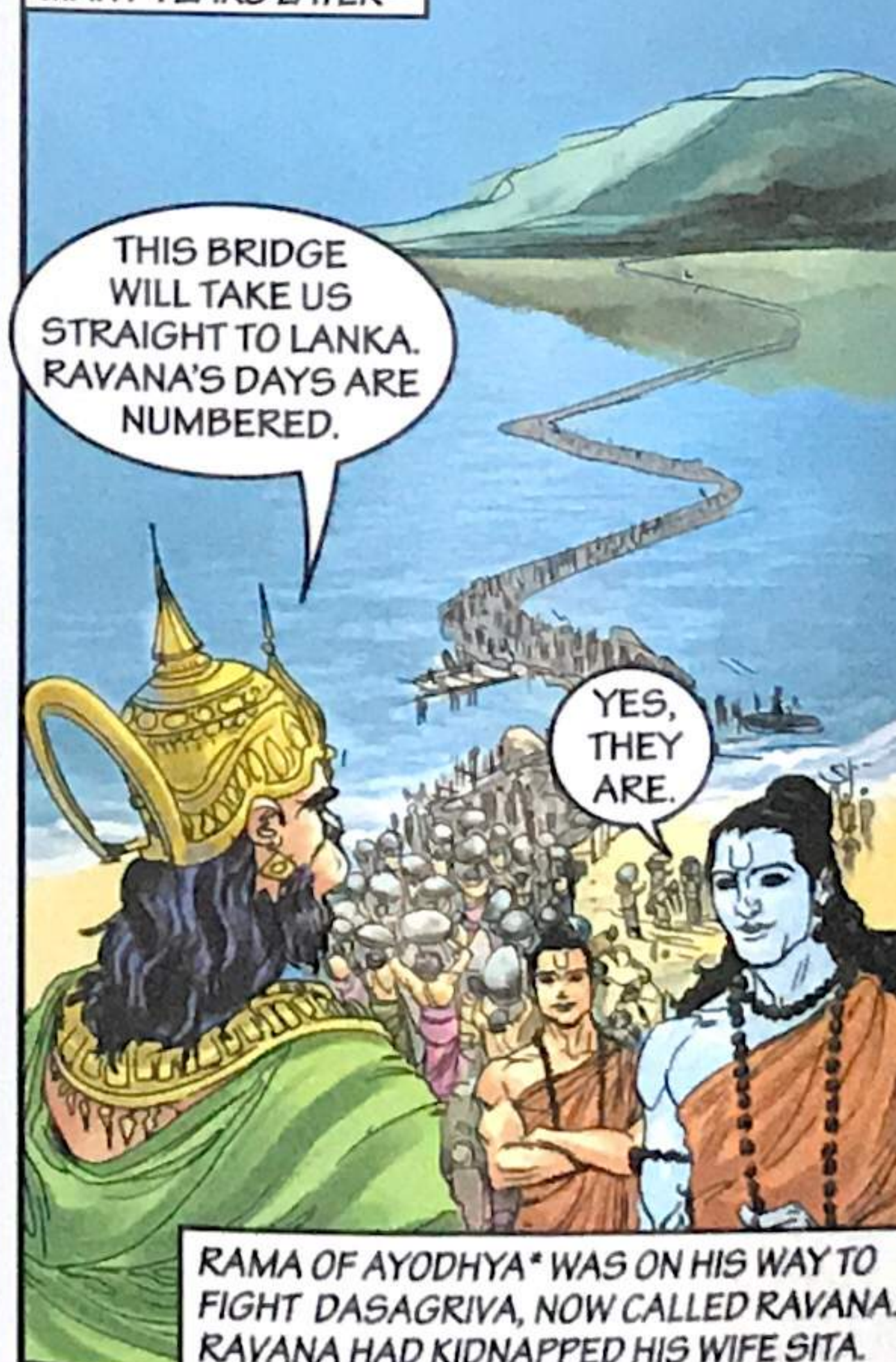
WHEN THE CELESTIAL WEAPONS FAILED TO WORK, DASAGRIVA RESORTED TO SORCERY, CHANGING HIS FORM AT WILL.



DASAGRIVA LEFT.



MANY YEARS LATER -



*RAMA IS THE SEVENTH INCARNATION OF VISHNU.

VIBHISHANA SENT RAMA, SITA AND LAKSHMANA BACK TO AYODHYA ON THE PUSHPAKA VIMANA.



NOW THAT WE HAVE REACHED HOME, IT'S TIME YOU RETURNED TO YOUR RIGHTFUL OWNER.



KUBERA WAS OVERJOYED.

MY PUSHPAKA VIMANA! RAMA HAS SENT IT BACK TO ME.



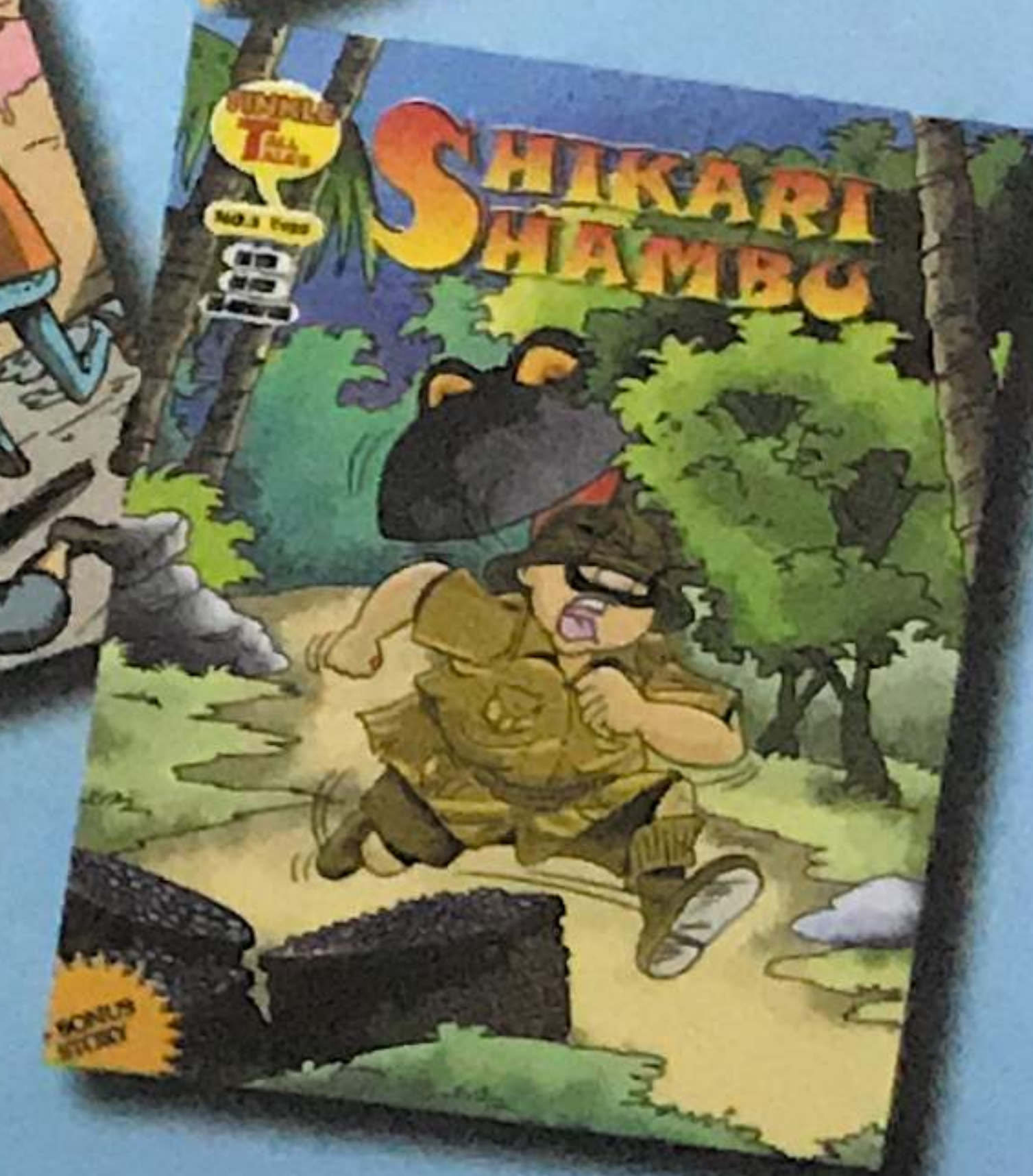
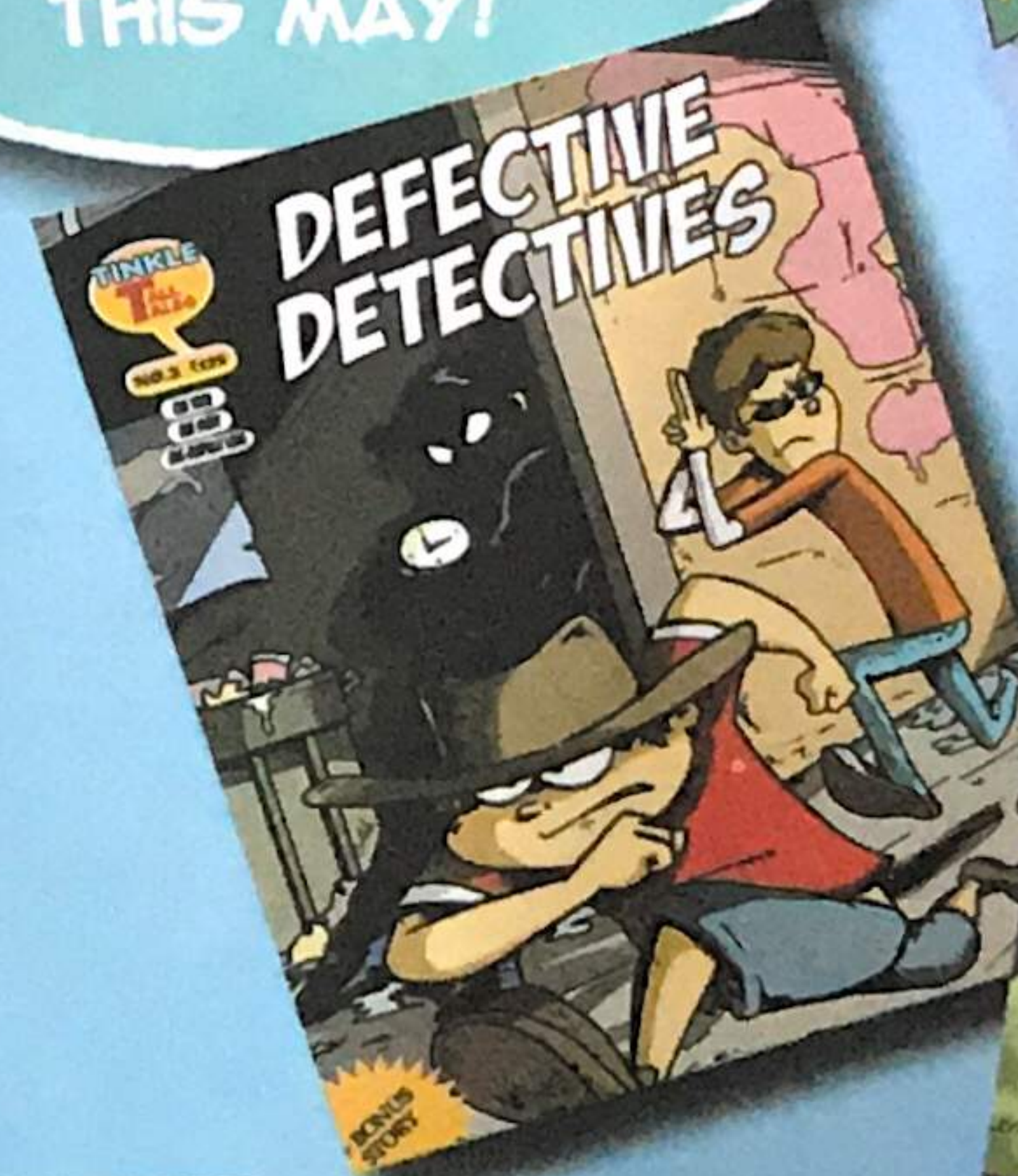
LORD RAMA HAS WON OVER EVIL AND BROUGHT HARMONY TO THE WORLD. GO BACK TO HIM AND CARRY HIM WHEREVER HE WISHES TO GO.



KUBERA, THE LORD OF WEALTH, CONTINUED HIS PEACEFUL REIGN FROM ALAKAPURI.

ONE TOON ONE STORY ONE-DERFULLY LONG... IT'S TINKLE TALL TALES!

TINKLE PRESENTS,
FOR THE FIRST
TIME EVER,
LONGER, LOONIER
ADVENTURES OF
YOUR FAVOURITE
TINKLE TOONS.
COMING YOUR WAY
THIS MAY!



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